Second booster gets OK

The FDA approves an additional dose for those aged 50 and older. **News, Page 4**

Sandy Hook lawsuit

Infowars host Alex Jones offers payment to resolve Sandy Hook lawsuit. **News, Page 3**

Diggins to transfer

UConn freshman guard Rahsool Diggins enters the transfer portal. **Sports, Page 4**

More seasonable

Thickening cloudiness, with a high of 49. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

School funding tweak sought

'Cost sharing,' which targets schools most in need, could be more fully implemented under new plan

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

In 2017, Connecticut lawmakers overhauled the way the state funds schools by creating a formula that directs more dollars to districts with larger populations and greater levels of student need. But districts aren't yet receiving what they should.

The legislature is now considering a bill that would leverage the state's strong fiscal health to fully fund the formula, known as education cost sharing, in an effort to accelerate aid for underfunded districts and streamline the process by which need is calculated.

"Simply put, we have a very disjointed funding system that does this through 11 different mechanisms, and we are trying to simplify that down to one," state Rep. Jeff Currey (D-East Hartford) said during an education committee meeting last week.

How would funding amounts change?

The 2017 law went into effect in the 2019 fiscal year with a 10-year phase-in for underfunded districts. That phase-in would be accelerated under House Bill 5283, with the education cost sharing formula fully funded by the 2024-25 school year — the same year Connecticut's $1.5 billion in federal COVID-19 relief dollars expire.

Proponents of the bill say the early implementation of

Turn to Schools, Page 2

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



The road continues



At top, UConn's Paige Bueckers, left, and Olivia Nelson-Ododa greet fans during a send-off rally Tuesday in Storrs for the women's basketball team. At right, UConn's Dorka Juhász, right, embraces Christyn Williams before the Huskies head to Minneapolis for their 22nd Final Four appearance. Juhász fractured her left wrist against North Carolina State on Monday night and didn't accompany the team on the trip. **Full coverage inside Sports**

JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

2022 Women's Final Four at a glance

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

Record: 33–2 (15–1 SEC)
Number of Final Fours: 4
Most recent title: 2017
Player to watch: Junior forward Aliyah Boston averages a double-double, with 16.8 points and 12.2 rebounds per game.

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

Record: 29–4 **(16–2 ACC)**
Number of Final Fours: 4
Most recent title: Never
Player to watch: Sophomore guard Hailey Van Lith, named to the All-ACC first team, last scored fewer than 20 points in a game on March 4.

STANFORD CARDINAL

Record: 32–3 (16–0 Pac-12)
Number of Final Fours: 15
Most recent title: 2021
Player to watch: Senior guard Lexie Hull averages 12.7 points per game and shoots 40% from three-point range for the defending champions.

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES

Record: 29–5 (16–1 Big East)
Number of Final Fours: 22
Most recent title: 2016
Player to watch: Sophomore guard Paige Bueckers scored 27 points in UConn's Elite Eight win — her most since returning from a knee injury.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Talks yield outline of deal

Russia's vow to curb combat in 2 areas met by skepticism

By Nebi Qena and Yuras Karmanau
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia announced Tuesday it will significantly scale back military operations near Ukraine's capital and a northern city, as the outlines of a possible deal to end the grinding war came into view during the latest round of talks.

Ukraine's delegation at the conference, held in Istanbul, laid out a framework under which the country would declare itself neutral and its security would be guaranteed by an array of other nations.

Moscow's public reaction was positive, and the talks are expected to resume Wednesday, five weeks into what has devolved into a bloody war of attrition, with thousands dead and almost 4 million Ukrainians fleeing the country.

Amid the talks, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin said Moscow has decided to "fundamentally ... cut back military activity in the direction of Kyiv and Chernihiv" to "increase mutual trust and create conditions for further negotiations."

He did not immediately spell out what that would mean in practical terms.

The announcement was met with skepticism from the U.S. and others.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia cannot be trusted. Although the signals from the talks are "positive," they "can't silence explosions of Russian shells," he said.

Turn to Ukraine, Page 3

■ Ukraine and Russia account for a third of global wheat and barley exports, leaving some countries at risk of food shortages. **Page 6**

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT

Ruling: Material witnesses can be jailed in order to testify

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

The state Supreme Court has ruled against a convicted teenaged killer who claimed prosecutors violated his fair trial rights when they jailed reluctant witnesses to compel their appearance at his trial, but the justices admonished prosecutors to use caution before doing so in the future.

"This appeal requires us to consider the extent to which the detention of witnesses in order to secure their attendance at a criminal trial constitutes coercion that implicates the due process rights of a criminal defendant, as well as the practices that a trial court may employ to mitigate the potentially coercive effects of the detention process," the court wrote.

The court's decision arose from the conviction and imprisonment for 47 years of Damarquis Gray of New Haven. Gray was 15 in 2014 when he became involved in a dispute with other young people and killed the victim, 20-year-old Durrell Law, by shooting him in the back.

It took years — and a grand jury investigation — to prosecute the case because the group of mostly teenaged witnesses to the shooting moved out of state, could not be found or, when they were, refused

Turn to Ruling, Page 2

$150 million in state aid split among dozens of locales

The state is poised to OK aid for dozens of communities, helping Bloomfield to build a library, Hartford to improve a park and West Hartford to replace tennis courts. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Opinion ..... **News, 12**
Obituaries ..... **News, 14-16**
Lottery ..... **News, 2**
Classified ..... **News, 13**
Puzzles ... **Connecticut, 7, 9**
Comics ... **Connecticut, 8-9**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Ruling

from Page 1

to cooperate with investigators.

Eventually, police located three witnesses, two teenaged young women and a 20-year old man, and they were held in jail for one or two nights to guarantee their appearance as prosecution witnesses.

At issue in the appeal was the question of whether arrest and forcible detention of innocent witnesses to secure cooperation is so intimidating and disruptive that it raises questions about the reliability of their testimony.

Lisa Steele, who represented Gray in his unsuccessful appeal, applauded the court's caution about detaining future material witnesses, but said the decision misreads the coercive effect of incarceration. One of the young women who was detained was five months pregnant and the second was concerned that her own young child would be placed in the custody of the state Department of Children and Families while she was held.

"I understand the court saying, 'Well, we are just trying to coerce them to show up.' And that is different from telling them what to say," Steele said. "But there is also the question of, 'Do the witnesses not realize that if they just repeat what the prosecutor wants and expects them to say, they go home faster?' And the prosecutor is the one asking for them to be held. And if they say what they are expected to say, maybe they don't have stay overnight for a second night, a third night."

In the unanimous decision written by Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson, the court recognized the trauma of forcible incarceration. But the court said it found nothing in the case record suggesting the witness testimony was unreliable.

At the same time, the court noted its long held proposition that citizens have an obligation to contribute to the administration of justice.

"This court has long recognized that 'It is the duty of all good citizens when legally required to do so to testify to any facts within their knowledge affecting [the] public interest and ... [that] no one has a natural right to be protected in his refusal to discharge that duty,' " the court wrote.

"Our review of the record establishes that the detentions of the witnesses in this case did not have the coercive influence over their testimony necessary to give rise to a due process violation," the court wrote.

"Most significant, each witness received the benefit of appointed counsel to advocate for their due process rights, and conditions of confinement and release," the court wrote. "The jury was aware of the circumstances underlying the testimony of (the three witnesses) as each testified that they were not in court testifying voluntarily and had been detained as material witnesses but were giving testimony without any influence or seeking favor."

In addition, the court noted that one of the detained witnesses was instructed by the court that it was his appearance in court that would dictate his release from custody, not the substance of what he said.

All three made it clear to the jurors they had resisted testifying out of fear of being labeled "a snitch." One testified that she feared what might happen "outside in the community ... after this testimony."

The court said Gray's lawyer had the opportunity to cross-examine the detained material witnesses, but did not raise the issue of whether detention made their reliability suspect.

After affirming the use of detention and compelled testimony in Gray's case, the court urged caution in the future.

"As is evident from the rules of practice applicable to the release of criminal defendants, there are numerous means available to ensure that a witness appears to testify in court that are less restrictive than incarceration," the court said. "This court has long recognized that 'It is the duty of all good citizens when legally required to do so to testify to any facts within their knowledge affecting [the] public interest and ... [that] no one has a natural right to be protected in his refusal to discharge that duty.'"

"This important duty and state interest, however, do not diminish a witness' interest in not being subject to overly restrictive means of ensuring his or her appearance. Consistent with our long established practice with respect to criminal defendants, we emphasize that our trial courts should always employ the least restrictive means necessary to ensure a witness' appearance at trial. To mitigate the unavoidably coercive effects of the detention process, we also urge our trial courts, as the trial court did (in Gray's case), to instruct detained witnesses that only their presence is compelled and that the substance of their testimony will not be considered in determining when they will be released from custody," the court said.

"Second, we note that a court should refrain from referencing the power of the state, particularly that of the Department of Children and Families, in responding to a witness' concern about obtaining childcare while the witness is detained on a material witness warrant," the court wrote. "The invocation of the involvement of the Department of Children and Families ... could have had an unduly coercive effect, and trial courts should avoid making such references whenever possible in order to avoid the appearance of undue coercion."

The court also said detained witnesses should have priority over other witnesses in the order in which they testify.

Schools

from Page 1

"student-centered funding" will help bridge the "fiscal cliff" faced by some districts, and make it easier for high-need districts to hire teachers, social workers and plan long-term services.

Urban school districts in particular stand to benefit from millions of dollars more in state funding by 2025.

Hartford Public Schools' net state funding would increase by more than $24 million, compared to the $259 million it stands to receive under current law, according to School and State Finance Project calculations.

The bill would also mean significant increases for schools in New Britain ($18.2 million), East Hartford ($10.9 million) and Manchester ($8.5 million).

Funding increases would be more modest for Bridgeport, the state's largest city, which would receive an increase of just $3.5 million. Funding would increase by $7.5 million for Stamford Public Schools, and $19.4 million in New Haven.

For districts deemed overfunded by the formula, the 10-year phase-out period would remain unchanged.

How is need assessed?

Under current law, the funding formula considers three factors to determine the level of student need.

The formula provides more funding for every student who qualifies as low-income, every student who is an English language learner and to districts where 60% or more of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The formula also provides a base amount to each district for every student, regardless of need.

Connecticut has been through several iterations of school funding in recent decades. Most recently, the state supplied the bulk of education funding through block grants, according to Michael Morton, deputy executive director of the nonpartisan School and State Finance Project.

The process, with grants contingent on historical funding levels and occasionally political sway, was "certainly not equitable, not transparent and not reflective of the needs of the district and the community," Morton said.

Sheff ruling and sending districts

Morton said the bill would help to alleviate the negative financial impact that sending districts may experience as a result of the Sheff vs. O'Neill settlement, in which the state agrees to meet 100% of demand for Hartford students who want to attend a Choice school.

Under current law, Hartford Public Schools pay tuition costs for Hartford students who attend magnet schools operated by Capitol Region Education Council. House Bill 5283 would shift those costs to the state.

Some schools in Greater Hartford are "overly burdened with tuition payments that are increasingly on the rise and will continue to be if we don't take action," Currey, former chair of the East Hartford school board, said Friday.

Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, superintendent of Hartford Public Schools, has previously raised concerns over the settlement's impact on the district's finances should enrollment in Hartford schools decline.

Districts with declining enrollment aren't held completely harmless, Morton said, but there are some mitigating factors under current law. A Hartford student who attends a magnet school operated by Hartford Public Schools counts toward enrollment. Students who attend schools in other towns through Open Choice count as half of a student in the district where they live and half of a student in the district they attend.

What's the status of the bill?

The legislature's education committee advanced the bill Friday with a 27-12 vote, with one lawmaker absent. The bill was filed with the Legislative Commissioners' Office on Monday.

Some lawmakers expressed concern Friday over the bill's price tag, which has not yet been finalized.

Fully funding last year's education cost sharing proposal, Senate Bill 948, would have come with a $376 million price tag, according to a report from the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

House Bill 5283 is different than last year's proposal in several ways, as vocational agriculture schools and certain interdistrict magnet schools are held harmless from funding decreases.

State Sen. Doug McCrory (D-Hartford), co-chair of the education committee, applauded the bill for including a task force that would study funding and outcomes for school boards and magnet school operators.

"We talk about being accountable with the schools, [and] we've got to be accountable with resources," McCrory said. "This gives us an opportunity to have a robust discussion for how we fund schools, treat children the same [and] hold ourselves accountable."

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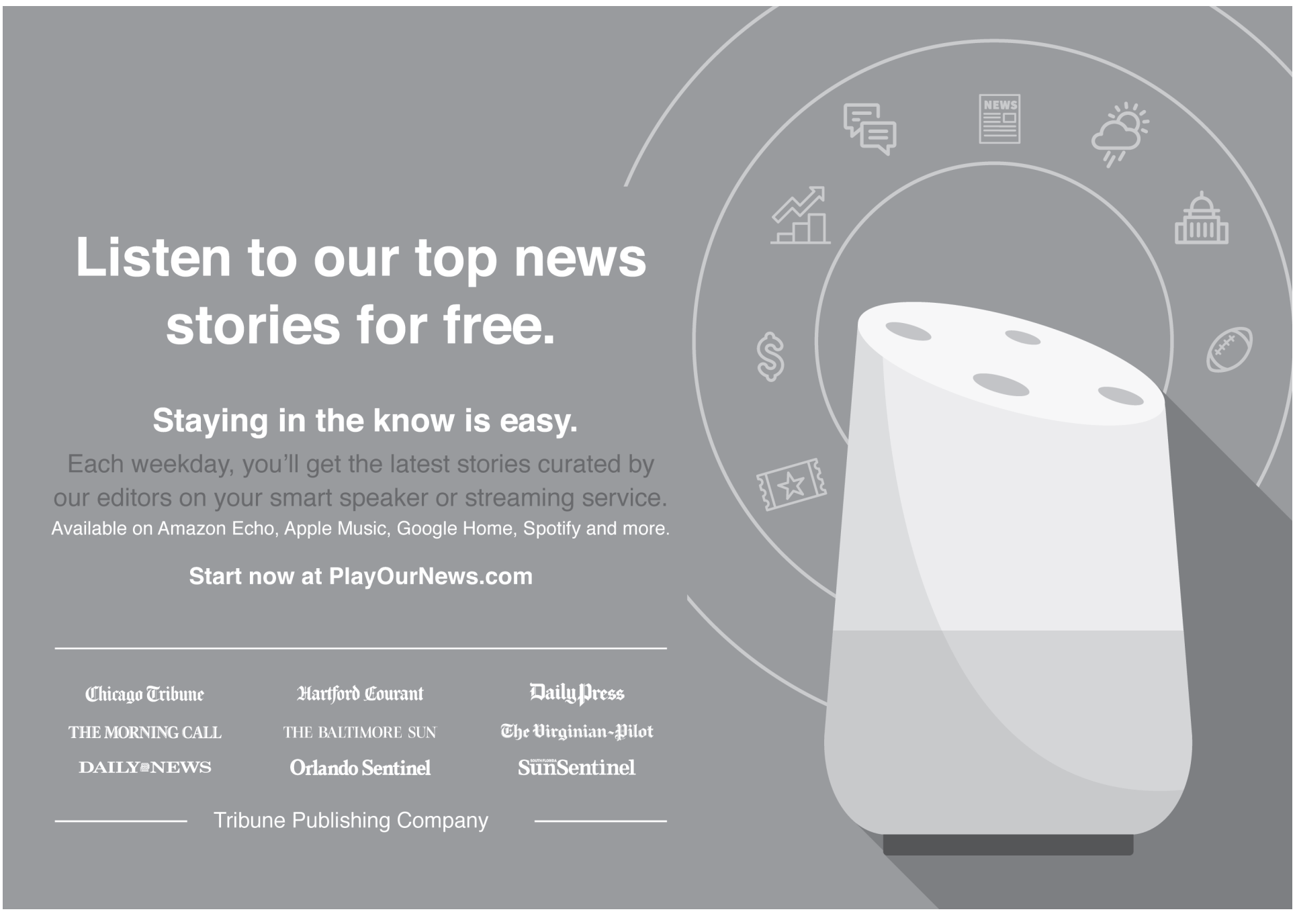
LOTTERY
Tuesday, March 29

PLAY3 DAY
9 6 9 **WB:** 3

PLAY4 DAY
8 4 5 1 **WB:** 8

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

MONDAY'S LATE NUMBERS
PLAY3 NIGHT
1 8 6 **WB:** 5
PLAY4 NIGHT
6 6 1 1 **WB:** 4
CASH 5
12 22 32 34 35
LUCKY FOR LIFE
13 31 34 35 37 **LB:** 3
Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: $1.6 million
Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot: $206 million



FROM PAGE ONE

Alex Jones offers to settle Sandy Hook case

Associated Press



Infowars host Alex Jones speaks in 2018 on Capitol Hill in Washington. **JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP FILE**

HARTFORD — Infowars host Alex Jones has offered to pay $120,000 per plaintiff to resolve a lawsuit by relatives of Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims who said he defamed them by asserting the massacre never happened, according to court filings Tuesday.

A Connecticut judge found Jones liable for damages in November, and a trial is planned to determine how much he should pay the families.

The plaintiffs said they have been subjected to harassment and death threats from Jones' followers because of the hoax conspiracy promoted on his show.

The new court filings posted online said: "Mr. Jones extends his heartfelt apology for any distress his remarks caused."

A lawyer for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Last week Jones defied a court order to attend a deposition near his home in Austin, Texas, to provide testimony ahead of the trial. Jones said he was ill. A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday on a request by the plaintiffs to sanction Jones for not cooperating.

Twenty first graders and six educators were killed in the 2012 shooting in Newtown. The families of eight of the victims and an FBI agent who responded to the school sued Jones, Infowars and others in Connecticut over the hoax conspiracy. Jones has since said he believes the shooting did occur.

Jones also was found liable for damages in similar lawsuits filed in Texas by relatives of Sandy Hook victims, and also faces trial later this year.

Feds: AMR ambulance will pay $600K to resolve billing claims

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

The American Medical Response ambulance service has agreed to pay $600,000 to settle claims by the federal and state government's that it improperly billed the Medicaid and Medicare government insurance programs for services.

The federal and state governments claimed that AMR billed for paramedic services at the scenes of emergency responses when in fact the services were performed by local fire departments, federal authorities said.

The settlement encompassed various types of service related to ambulance billing.

Advanced Life Support services involve services performed by a paramedic at the scene of an emergency and in the ambulance and they require a high level of medical monitoring. Basic Life Support services involve a lower degree of care that can be provided by an emergency medical technician or that relate to the transport of a patient in the ambulance to a hospital.

In several municipalities, fire departments provide advanced services when a 911 call is dispatched. In such situations, ambulance services such as AMR are dispatched to provide only basic ambulance transport. When fire departments and AMR respond jointly, it is called a "joint response."

The federal and state governments claimed that AMR often billed Medicare and Medicaid for advanced services when it was only providing the basic service.

Federal officials said it would have been proper for AMR to bill Medicare for advanced services in situations in which it had a written billing agreement with a municipal fire department, something it did not have during the period subject to the settlement. In Medicaid cases, both AMR and municipal fire departments billed for advanced services, causing Medicaid to pay twice for one service, federal officials said.

Messages seeking comment were left with AMR.

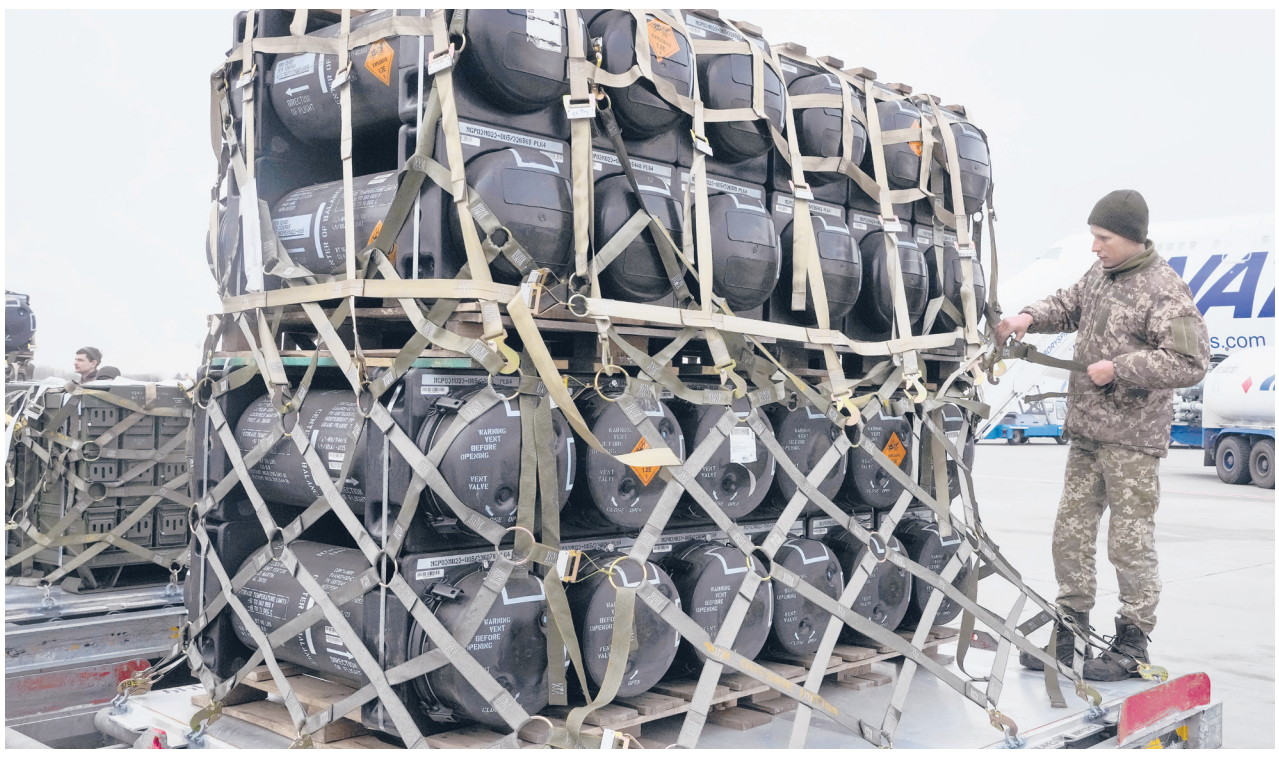
The AMR payment covers the period January 2014 through December 2019.

The case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services and the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General William Tong.

Will Russians strike NATO supply lines?

History hints Russia will avoid escalating war to other nations

By Michael Crowley
The New York Times



A Ukrainian serviceman unpacks Javelin anti-tank missiles last month at an airport in Boryspil, Ukraine. **EFREM LUKATSKY/AP**

WASHINGTON — A Russian missile strike Sunday in western Ukraine near the Polish border, which has become a transit point for weapons being sent to Ukrainian forces, raised new concerns about whether Russia might attack NATO territory to stop or destroy the shipments.

Such an attack could dramatically expand the conflict.

The arms, which include machine guns, tactical drones and antitank missiles, have passed through Poland and Romania, both NATO members, and an attack on either country would activate the alliance's collective-defense provision, known as Article 5. Speaking Saturday in Warsaw, Poland, President Joe Biden said the United States had a "sacred obligation" to honor Article 5.

The prospect of direct conflict with the nuclear-armed NATO alliance provides President Vladimir Putin of Russia with a powerful disincentive.

But history, including the Soviet Union's experience in Afghanistan in the 1980s, shows that even in the absence of a possible nuclear war, invading powers have been surprisingly hesitant to target countries that provide adversaries with lethal support.

"There just historically has always been a reluctance to broaden these conflicts to surrounding nations," said Bruce Hoffman, a counterinsurgency expert and a professor at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov seemed to threaten such an attack, recently telling state-run news outlet RT that "any cargo moving into Ukrainian territory which we would believe is carrying weapons would be fair game."

A Russian strike on supply points in eastern Poland or northern Romania would be a departure from recent norms. The United States may have carpet-bombed Laos and invaded Cambodia during the Vietnam War in hopes of smashing Viet Cong supply lines and sanctuaries, but the approach proved politically costly and strategically ineffective.

Hoffman and others cite several examples pointing the other way, including the Soviet and U.S. wars in Afghanistan.

In both cases, Soviet and U.S. leaders feared the costs and potential consequences of expanding already difficult conflicts.

For Putin, the stakes would be high.

With his army foundering, some analysts say a vigorous NATO supply campaign could lead to a Russian military failure, with potentially disastrous implications for him.

"When an insurgency has access to cross-border sanctuary and safe haven and a flow of arms, it is almost impossible to defeat," Hoffman said.

Soviet leaders learned that lesson the hard way in the 1980s, after Moscow invaded Afghanistan and struggled to control the country amid fierce resistance by Islamic insurgents known as mujahedeen. A CIA program soon turned western Pakistan into a staging ground for the mujahedeen fighters, eventually providing them with more than $2 billion in equipment, training and weapons — including Stinger antiaircraft missiles, which the United States is now shipping to Ukraine.

Pakistani officials worried that the Soviets might respond with cross-border attacks on their territory, but the United States assured them — correctly, as it turned out — that Moscow did not want to devote even more troops to an unpopular war.

"The Soviets certainly had the military capability to strike the bases either through airstrikes or ground forces, or both," said Bruce Riedel, a former CIA analyst who is now with the Brookings Institution and wrote a book about the covert campaign to support the Afghan fighters.

But, he added, "Moscow did not want the war to expand."

Some analysts say that, in this case, Putin may lack the troops needed to complete a takeover of Ukraine, never mind to storm into or seal the border of a second country.

But Putin enjoys more sophisticated and accurate weaponry than his Soviet predecessors, making it easier to strike supply hubs for Ukrainian forces from a distance.

Putin may also doubt that NATO would treat a limited, lightning strike from the air on its territory as an act of war, especially given Biden's warnings that direct conflict with Russia could lead to World War III.

Even so, some doubt that Putin would take such a risk.

One reason is that it is "very difficult for countries to seriously interdict supply lines," said Seth Jones, a former official at U.S. Special Operations Command now with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "Limited striking of targets in Ukraine, or in countries like Poland, is not going to meaningfully stop the flow."

As U.S. officials try to predict Putin's response to their arms supplies, they will be mindful of instances when the United States faced similar choices.

After the United States invaded Afghanistan, President George W. Bush never moved seriously against cross-border sanctuaries the Taliban had established in Pakistan. Sealing off those locations might have required doubling the number of American troops in the country from around their peak levels of the war, according to Gian Gentile, a retired U.S. Army colonel and historian at Rand Corp.

"The Americans were not willing to escalate militarily," said Husain Haqqani, a Pakistani ambassador to Washington during the Obama administration. Even when President Barack Obama ordered a raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in 2011, Haqqani added, "a big concern was, what if Pakistan retaliates and this becomes some kind of full-blown war?"

In 2007, American officials, including Bush, said that Iran was equipping Iraq's insurgent Shiite militias with improvised rockets and deadly roadside bombs that featured an explosively formed penetrator, which could punch through most U.S. vehicles.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., was among those who called for a military response, saying that Iranian leaders could not "have immunity for training and equipping people to come in and kill Americans."

Bush, who already had two wars on his hands, never struck.

During the Korean War, the United States even shied away from bringing the fight to an enemy that was attacking its troops. After U.S. forces advanced near North Korea's border with China in late 1950, Beijing sent hundreds of thousands of troops south to push the Americans back.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur sought permission to bomb bases, bridges and factories in China.

But President Harry Truman rejected the idea, heeding the advice of other commanders who said an expanded war could draw in the Soviet Union and leave the United States outmatched in the region.

The Soviets nevertheless sent fighter jets to help battle the U.S. Air Force over Korea. Although Moscow denied its involvement, even marking its planes in North Korean colors, the U.S. suspected the truth — but chose to look the other way.

Ukraine

from Page 1



A damaged and abandoned Russian tank on Tuesday in the northeastern city of Trostyanets, Ukraine. **FADEL SENNA/GETTY-AFP**

Zelenskyy said it was Ukrainian troops who forced Russia's hand, adding that "we shouldn't ease our guard" because the invading army still "has a great potential to continue attacks against our country."

Ukraine will continue negotiations, he said, but officials do not trust the word of the country that continues "fighting to destroy us."

While Moscow portrayed it as a goodwill gesture, its ground troops have become bogged down and taken heavy losses in their bid to seize Kyiv and other cities. Last week and again on Tuesday, the Kremlin seemed to lower its war aims, saying its "main goal" now is gaining control of the mostly Russian-speaking Donbas region in eastern Ukraine.

President Joe Biden, asked whether the Russian announcement was a sign of progress in the talks or an attempt by Moscow to buy time to continue its assault, said: "We'll see. I don't read anything into it until I see what their actions are."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggested Russian indications of a pullback could be an attempt by Moscow to "deceive people and deflect attention."

Western officials say Moscow is reinforcing troops in the Donbas in a bid to encircle Ukraine's forces. And Russia's deadly siege in the south continues, with civilians trapped in the ruins of Mariupol and other bombarded cities.

"There is what Russia says and there is what Russia does, and we're focused on the latter," Blinken said in Morocco. "And what Russia is doing is the continued brutalization of Ukraine."

Even as negotiators gathered, Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces blasted a gaping hole in a nine-story government administration building in a strike on the southern port city of Mykolaiv, killing at least 12 people, emergency authorities said.

The search for more bodies in the rubble continued.

"It's terrible. They waited for people to go to work" before striking the building, said regional governor Vitaliy Kim. "I overslept. I'm lucky."

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. has detected small numbers of Russian ground forces moving away from the Kyiv area, but it appeared to be a repositioning of forces, "not a real withdrawal."

He said it was too soon to say how extensive the Russian movements may be or where the troops will be repositioned.

"It does not mean the threat to Kyiv is over," Kirby said. "They can still inflict massive brutality on the country, including on Kyiv." He said Russian airstrikes against Kyiv continued.

The meeting in Istanbul was the first time negotiators from Russia and Ukraine talked face-to-face in two weeks. Earlier talks were held in person in Belarus or by video.

Among other things, the Kremlin has demanded all along that Ukraine drop any hope of joining NATO.

Ukraine's delegation offered a detailed framework for a peace deal under which a neutral Ukraine's security would be guaranteed by a group of countries, including the U.S., Britain, France, Turkey, China and Poland, in an arrangement similar to NATO's "an attack on one is an attack on all" principle.

Ukraine said it would also be willing to hold talks over a 15-year period on the future of the Crimean Peninsula, seized by Russia in 2014.

Vladimir Medinsky, head of the Russian delegation, said on Russian TV that the Ukrainian proposals are a "step to meet us halfway, a clearly positive fact." He cautioned that the parties are still far from reaching an agreement, but said: "We know now how to move further toward compromise."

Meanwhile, in what appeared to be a coordinated action to tackle espionage, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Ireland and North Macedonia expelled scores of Russian diplomats.

WORLD&NATION
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FDA approves new round of shots

CDC still must give OK to boosters for adults 50 and up

By Lauran Neergaard and Matthew Perrone
Associated Press



A pharmacist prepares a COVID-19 booster shot on Feb. 22 in Hagerstown, Maryland. **KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

U.S. regulators Tuesday authorized another COVID-19 booster for people age 50 and older, a step to offer extra protection for the most vulnerable in case the coronavirus rebounds.

The Food and Drug Administration's decision opens a fourth dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines to that age group at least four months after their previous booster.

Until now, the FDA had cleared fourth doses only for people 12 and older who have severely weakened immune systems. The agency said this group also can get an additional booster, a fifth shot.

The latest expansion, regardless of people's health, allows an extra shot to millions more Americans — once the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention weighs in with its own recommendations. One lingering question is whether everyone who's eligible should rush out and seek the dose right away.

Everyone eligible for a first booster who hasn't gotten one yet needs to, FDA vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks said. But the second booster is only for these higher-risk groups because there's evidence protection can wane and FDA decided the option "will help save lives and prevent severe outcomes."

The move comes amid great uncertainty. COVID-19 cases have dropped to low levels after the winter surge of the highly contagious omicron variant. Two vaccine doses plus a booster still provide strong protection against severe disease and death, CDC data show.

But an omicron sibling is causing a worrisome jump in infections in Europe — and spreading in the U.S. — even as vaccination has stalled. About two-thirds of Americans are fully vaccinated, and half of those eligible for a first booster haven't gotten one.

Pfizer had asked the FDA to clear a fourth shot for people 65 and older, while Moderna requested another dose for all adults "to provide flexibility" for the government to decide who really needs one.

FDA's Marks said regulators set the age at 50 because that's when chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes become more common, increasing the risks from COVID-19. As for the immune-compromised, Marks said those patients are more likely to see their immune protection wane sooner and therefore can benefit more from extra protection. Only the Pfizer vaccine can be used in those as young as 12; Moderna's is for adults.

There's limited evidence to tell how much benefit another booster could offer right now. FDA made the decision without input from its independent panel of experts that has wrestled with how much data is required to expand shots.

"There might be a reason to top off the tanks a little bit" for older people and those with other health conditions, said University of Pennsylvania immunologist E. John Wherry, who wasn't involved in the government's decision.

But while he encourages older friends and relatives to follow the advice, the 50-year-old Wherry — who is healthy, vaccinated and boosted — doesn't plan on getting a fourth shot right away. With protection against severe illness still strong, "I'm going to wait until it seems like there's a need."

None of the COVID-19 vaccines are as strong against the omicron mutant as they were against earlier versions of the virus. Also, protection against milder infections naturally wanes over time. But the immune system builds multiple layers of defense and the type that prevents severe illness and death is holding up.

During the U.S. omicron wave, two doses were nearly 80% effective against needing a ventilator or death — and a booster pushed that protection to 94%, the CDC recently reported. Vaccine effectiveness was lowest — 74% — in immune-compromised people, the vast majority of whom hadn't gotten a third dose.

U.S. health officials also looked to Israel, which during the omicron surge opened a fourth dose to people 60 and older at least four months after their last shot. The FDA said no new safety concerns emerged in a review of 700,000 fourth doses administered.

Preliminary data posted online last week suggested some benefit: Israeli researchers counted 92 deaths among more than 328,000 people who got the extra shot, compared to 232 deaths among 234,000 people who skipped the fourth dose.

What's far from clear is how long any extra benefit from another booster would last, and thus when to get it.

"The 'when' is a really difficult part. Ideally we would time booster doses right before surges but we don't always know when that's going to be," said Dr. William Moss, a vaccine expert at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Plus, a longer interval between shots helps the immune system mount a stronger, more cross-reactive defense.

"If you get a booster too close together, it's not doing any harm — you're just not going to get much benefit from it," said Wherry.

The newest booster expansion may not be the last: Next week, the government will hold a public meeting to debate if everyone eventually needs a fourth dose, possibly in the fall, of the original vaccine or an updated shot.

Americans easing mask, virus safeguards, poll says

Attitude shift comes as experts warn of a new COVID-19 wave

By Russ Bynum and Emily Swanson
Associated Press



Fans attend a professional soccer match Feb. 27 in Seattle. A new poll shows Americans are relaxing how often they're wearing masks to protect against COVID-19. **TED S. WARREN/AP**

Many Americans have taken significant steps back from once-routine coronavirus precautions, with less than half now saying they regularly wear face masks, avoid crowds and skip nonessential travel.

Americans are letting down their guard even as experts warn a new wave of COVID-19 cases is coming. A new poll from Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows fewer people taking protective measures than at any point in AP-NORC polls conducted since early 2021.

The poll found 44% say they often or always wear a face mask around people outside of their homes, down from 65% in January when infections of the highly contagious omicron variant were soaring. Just 40% say they're largely avoiding nonessential travel, compared with 60% in January. And 47% say they regularly stay away from large groups, down from 65% in January.

Most Americans say they at least sometimes still follow those safeguards. But they're increasingly returning to pre-pandemic norms as coronavirus infections have fallen to their lowest level since July.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention no longer recommends masking indoors for most Americans, while cities are lifting mask and vaccine requirements to enter restaurants, bars and concert venues. And more U.S. workers are returning to offices after two years of doing their jobs at home.

Judy Morgan, a retired teacher from Poulsbo, Washington, said she and her husband, a Navy veteran, have gradually become more relaxed about wearing masks and other precautions since getting their vaccine booster shots in late October. Roughly six weeks ago, she went back to shopping without a mask when the Navy base where she buys groceries stopped requiring face coverings.

"I figured when the military starts easing up, because they're pretty strict, that's a very good sign," said Morgan, 80.

Morgan and her husband plan to put their masks back on at the airport later this week when they fly to Florida to celebrate her birthday. She said they were extra cautious earlier in the pandemic because her husband has a heart condition that makes him more susceptible to severe illness from COVID-19.

Experts say the coronavirus isn't going away, and most Americans recognize the virus will stick around. In January, an AP-NORC poll showed just 15% of Americans said the pandemic will be over when COVID-19 is mostly eliminated. Most said they expect the pandemic to end when it's largely a mild virus.

But experts also say new variants could soon start another wave of rising infections in the U.S. Scientists are closely watching an extra-contagious spinoff of omicron that already has case numbers climbing in parts of Europe and Asia, as well as a delta-omicron hybrid, though so far infections of that variant appear to be rare.

Sonia Montoya, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, isn't taking any chances. The 65-year-old bookkeeper still works remotely from her office colleagues, orders any restaurant meals to go and makes sure to wear a mask when shopping or attending church. Six of Montoya's relatives and friends died from the virus, and she said she's still very worried about getting sick even though she's vaccinated.

"It came back and hit us again once before, and I have a feeling if we aren't cautious, we are going to do it again," Montoya said.

Since vaccines became widely available to the American public, AP-NORC polls have consistently shown that vaccinated people are more worried about infections and more likely to take preventive steps than the unvaccinated. The vaccinated are still more likely than the unvaccinated to say they're always or often avoiding nonessential travel (44% to 29%), staying away from large groups (51% to 32%) and wearing face masks around other people (49% to 26%).

But the new poll shows that over the past two months the vaccinated and unvaccinated alike have become less likely to regularly take those precautions. Likewise, both Democrats and Republicans are less likely than they were in January to say they frequently take protective measures.

Jason Newman, of Greenville, Kentucky, said he never wears a mask unless he's required to, has no concerns about dining out and never got vaccinated. He said he's tested positive for COVID-19 twice but suffered no symptoms either time.

The 43-year-old postal worker said in recent months he's noticed more people who seem to be treating the virus the way he does.

"It's always going be here no matter what, because they won't be able to eradicate it," he said.



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks after Tuesday's signing of the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act. **PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP**

Lynching a federal hate crime under new law

By Darlene Superville
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed a bill into law to make lynching a federal hate crime, more than 100 years after such legislation was first proposed.

The Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act is named after the Black teenager whose killing in Mississippi in 1955 became a galvanizing moment in the civil rights era. His mother, Mamie Till, insisted on an open casket to show everyone how her son had been brutalized.

Biden acknowledged the long delay during remarks in the Rose Garden to lawmakers, administration officials and civil rights advocates, stressing how the violent deaths of Black Americans were used to intimidate them and prevent them from voting simply because of their skin color.

"Thank you for never giving up, never ever giving up," the president said. "Lynching was pure terror to enforce the lie that not everyone, not everyone, belongs in America, not everyone is created equal."

The new law makes it possible to prosecute a crime as a lynching when a conspiracy to commit a hate crime leads to death or serious bodily injury, according to the bill's champion, Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill. The law lays out a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and fines.

The House approved the bill 422-3 on March 7, with eight members not voting, after it cleared the Senate by unanimous consent.

Congress failed to pass such legislation nearly 200 times, beginning with a bill introduced in 1900 by North Carolina Rep. George Henry White, the only Black member of Congress at the time.

The NAACP began lobbying for anti-lynching legislation in the 1920s. A federal hate crime statute was signed into law in the 1990s.

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Food staples at risk in Arab world

Cost of grains rising with export giants entrenched in war

By Zeina Karam
Associated Press



A vendor balances a tray of traditional flatbread as he cycles March 22 in the Old Cairo district of the Egyptian capital. **AMR NABIL/AP**

BEIRUT — Layal Aswad was already exhausted by Lebanon's devastating two-year economic collapse. Now, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine sends food and energy prices soaring even further, she finds herself struggling to put food on the table for her family of four.

"Even bread is not something we take for granted anymore," said the 48-year-old housewife, standing recently in a supermarket aisle in front of gallons of cooking oil whose prices had risen to an all-time high.

From Lebanon, Iraq and Syria to Sudan and Yemen, millions of people in the Middle East whose lives were already upended by conflict, displacement and poverty are now wondering where their next meals will come from.

Ukraine and Russia account for a third of global wheat and barley exports, which countries in the Middle East rely on to feed millions of people who subsist on subsidized bread and bargain noodles. They are also top exporters of other grains and the sunflower seed oil that is used for cooking.

Even before the war in Ukraine, people in countries across the Middle East and North Africa were not getting enough food to eat. Now with trade disruptions spurred by the conflict, more commodities are becoming either unaffordable or unavailable.

A similar set of circumstances led to a series of uprisings starting in late 2010 known as the Arab Spring, when skyrocketing bread prices fueled anti-government protests across the Middle East, noted Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

"When prices jump, and poor people cannot feed their families, they will be on the streets," Georgieva remarked Sunday at the Doha Forum, a policy conference in Qatar.

In Iraq and Sudan, public frustration at food prices and a lack of government services erupted in street protests on several occasions over the past several weeks.

The war also has sparked concern that much of the international aid upon which so many in the Arab world depend will be diverted to Ukraine, where nearly 4 million people have fled the war, Europe's largest exodus since World War II.

"For the millions of Palestinians, Lebanese, Yemenis, Syrians and others who live in countries experiencing conflict, catastrophic economic meltdowns, and increasing humanitarian needs, this would be equivalent to shutting down critical life support," states an analysis released by Carnegie Middle East experts last week.

In Syria, 14.6 million people will depend on assistance this year, 9% more than in 2021, Joyce Msuya, the United Nations' assistant secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and deputy emergency relief coordinator, told the U.N. Security Council in February.

In Yemen, basic needs are becoming even harder to meet for millions of impoverished people after seven years of war. A recent report by the U.N. and international aid groups estimated that more than 160,000 people in Yemen were likely to experience famine-like conditions in 2022. That number could climb much higher still because of the war in Ukraine. A U.N. appeal for the country earlier this month raised $1.3 billion, less than a third of what was sought.

"I have nothing," said Ghalib al-Najjar, a 48-year-old Yemeni father of seven whose family has lived in a refugee camp outside the rebel-held capital of Sanaa since fleeing fighting in their middle-class neighborhood more than four years ago. "I need flour, a package of flour. I need rice. I need sugar. I need what people need (to survive)."

In Lebanon, which has been in the throes of economic collapse for the past two years, panic has set in among a population worn down by shortages of electricity, medicine and gasoline.

The country's main grain silos were destroyed by a massive explosion at a Beirut port in 2020. Now, with just six weeks of wheat reserves, many fear even darker days ahead. Several large supermarkets were out of flour and corn oil this week.

"Whatever is put on shelves is being bought," said Hani Bohsali, head of the food importers syndicate. He said 60% of the cooking oil consumed in Lebanon comes from Ukraine and the rest comes mostly from Russia.

"This is not a small problem," he said.

Meanwhile, 1 gallon of cooking oil in Lebanon now costs around the same as the monthly minimum wage, which is still fixed at 675,000 Lebanese pounds, or $29, despite the currency having lost around 90% of its value since October 2019.

Families, including Aswad's, also are spending larger portions of their monthly income on neighborhood generators that light up their homes for most of the day in the absence of state-supplied electricity.

Even those are threatening to shut down now, saying they can no longer afford to buy fuel on the market.

"We are back to the Stone Age, stocking up on candles and things like toast and Picon (a processed cheese brand) in case we run out of everything," Aswad said.

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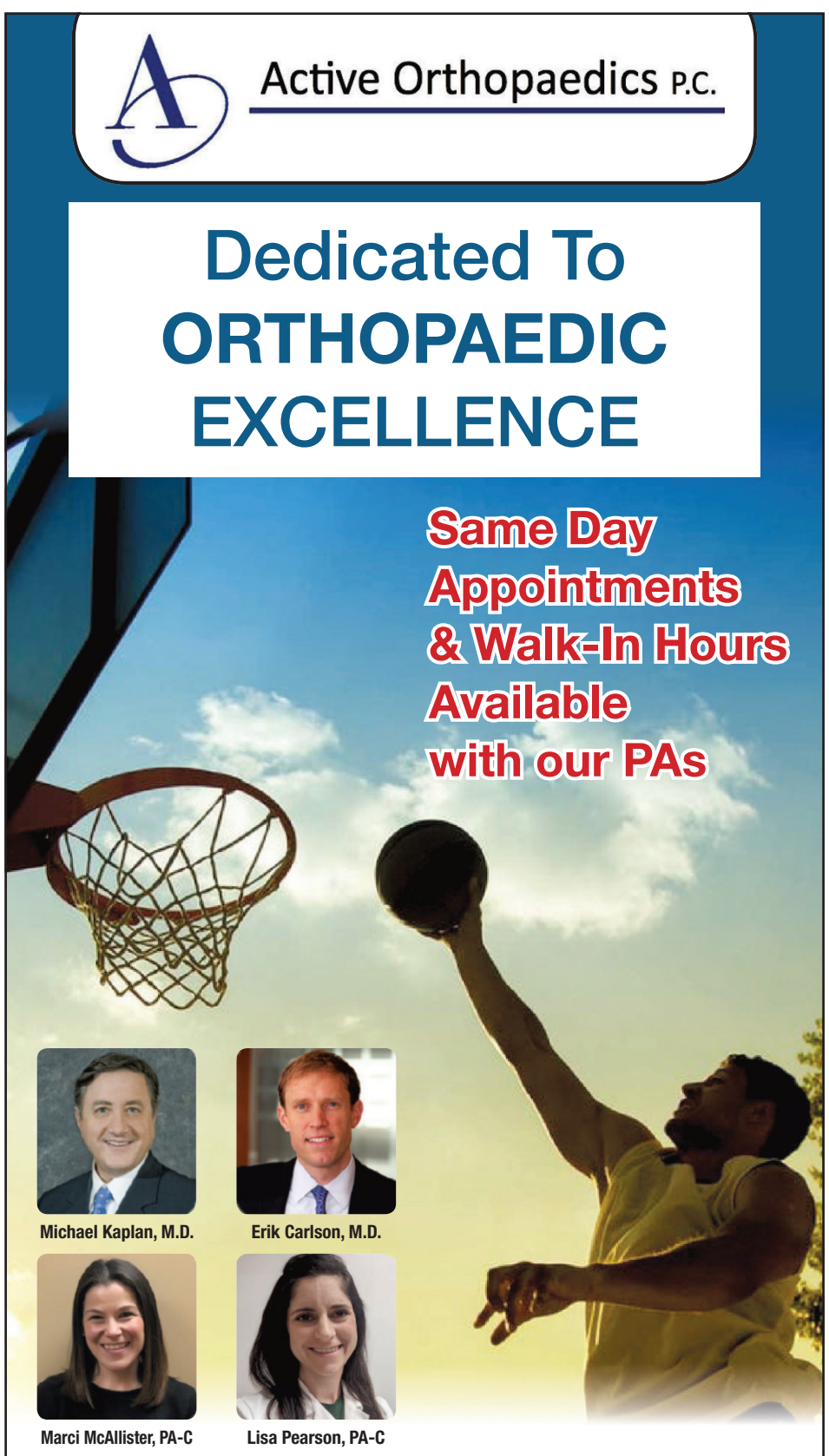
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WORLD & NATION

Taliban eye investment by Chinese

Afghanistan's rulers want to monetize natural resource

By Samya Kullab
Associated Press



Buddha statues are seen inside an ancient temple in the Mes Aynak valley, south of Kabul, Afghanistan. **DUSAN VRANIC/AP 2010**

MES AYNAK, Afghanistan — The ancient Buddha statues sit in serene meditation in the caves carved into the russet cliffs of rural Afghanistan. Hundreds of yards below lies what is believed to be the world's largest deposit of copper.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers are pinning their hopes on Beijing to turn that rich vein into revenue to salvage the cash-starved country amid crippling international sanctions.

The fighters standing guard by the rocky hillside may once have considered destroying the terra cotta Buddhas. Two decades ago when the Islamic hard-line Taliban were first in power, they sparked world outrage by blowing up gigantic Buddha statues in another part of the country, calling them pagan symbols that must be purged.

But now they are intent on preserving the relics of the Mes Aynak copper mine. Doing so is key to unlocking billions in Chinese investment, said Hakumullah Mubariz, the Taliban head of security at the site, peering into the remnants of a monastery built by first-century Buddhist monks.

"Protecting them is very important to us and the Chinese," he said.

Previously, Mubariz commanded a Taliban combat unit in the surrounding mountains battling with U.S.-backed Afghan forces. When those troops capitulated last year, his men rushed to secure the site.

"We knew it would be important for the country," he said.

The Taliban's spectacular reversal illustrates the powerful allure of Afghanistan's untapped mining sector. Successive authorities have seen the country's mineral riches, estimated to be worth $1 trillion, as the key to a prosperous future, but none have been able to develop them amid the continual war and violence. Now, multiple countries, including Iran, Russia and Turkey are looking to invest, filling the vacuum left in the wake of the chaotic U.S. withdrawal last summer.

But Beijing is the most assertive. At Mes Aynak, it could become the first major power to take on a large-scale project in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, potentially redrawing Asia's geopolitical map.

In 2008, the administration of Hamid Karzai signed a 30-year contract with a Chinese joint venture called MCC to extract high-grade copper from Mes Aynak. Studies show the site holds up to 12 million tons of the mineral.

But the project got tied up in logistical and contract problems, and it never got past some initial test shafts before it ground to a halt when Chinese staff left in 2014 because of continued violence.

Months after the Taliban seized Kabul in August, consolidating power over the country, the group's newly installed acting Minister for Mining and Petroleum Shahbuddin Dilawar urged his staff to re-engage Chinese state-run companies.

Ziad Rashidi, the ministry's director of foreign relations, approached the consortium made up by MCC, China Metallurgical Group Corporation and Jiangxi Copper Ltd. Dilawar has had two virtual meetings with MCC in the last six months, according to company and ministry officials. He urged them to return to the mine, terms unchanged from the 2008 contract.

A technical committee from MCC is due in Kabul in the coming weeks to address the remaining obstacles. Relocating the artifacts is key. But MCC is also seeking to renegotiate terms, particularly to reduce taxes and slash the 19.5% royalty rate by nearly half, the percentage owed to the government per ton of copper sold.

"Chinese companies see the current situation as ideal for them. There is a lack of international competitors and a lot of support from the government side," Rashidi said.

China's ambassador to Afghanistan has said talks are ongoing, but nothing more.

Acquiring rare minerals is key for Beijing to maintain its standing as a global manufacturing powerhouse. While stopping short of recognizing the Taliban government, China has stood out from the international community by calling for the unfreezing of Afghan assets and has kept its diplomatic mission running in Kabul.

For Afghanistan, the contract at Mes Aynak could bring in $250 to $300 million per year to state revenues, a 17% increase, as well as $800 million in fees over the length of the contract, according to government and company officials. That's a significant sum as the country grapples with widespread poverty, exacerbated by financial shortfalls after the Biden administration froze Afghan assets and international organizations halted donor funds. Some have since resumed.

At Mes Aynak, a 2,000-year-old Buddhist city sits uncomfortably alongside a potential economic engine. Afghanistan's tumultuous modern history has gotten in the way of both exploring the archaeology and developing the mines.

Discovered in the 1960s by French geologists, the site was believed to have been an important stop along the Silk Road from the early centuries A.D.

After the Soviet invasion in the late 1970s, Russians dug tunnels to investigate the copper deposit; the cavernous bore holes are still visible. These were later used as an al-Qaida hideout, and at least one was bombed by the U.S. in 2001.

Looters then pillaged many antiquities from the site. Still, archaeologists who came in 2004 managed a partial excavation, uncovering remnants of a vast complex, including four monasteries, ancient copper workshops and a citadel. It became clear the area had been a major Buddhist settlement, a crossroads for traders coming from the west, and pilgrims from afar, even China.

To the shock of the non-Taliban technical experts in his own ministry, Dilawar is committed to saving the site and told MCC's director in Beijing it was an important part of Afghanistan's history, according to two officials present in one virtual meeting.

He dismissed open-pit mining schemes that would raze the site entirely. The alternative option of underground mining was judged too pricey by MCC. The Culture Ministry has been tasked with presenting a plan to relocate the relics, most likely to the Kabul Museum.

"We have already transferred some (artifacts) to the capital, and we are working to transfer the rest, so the mining work can begin," Dilawar told Associated Press.

While the ministry is optimistic a deal can be reached, MCC officials are cautious and pragmatic.

They did not speak to the AP on record, citing sensitivities around the talks happening while international sanctions still prohibit dealings with the Taliban.



Israeli emergency personnel evacuate a woman from a shooting site Tuesday in Bnei Brak, Israel. At least five people were killed in two attacks in the city. **GIL COHEN-MAGEN/GETTY-AFP**

Gunman kills at least 5 during latest deadly attack in Israel

By Ilan Ben Zion
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A gunman on a motorcycle opened fire in a crowded city in central Israel late Tuesday, killing at least five people in the second mass shooting rampage this week. The shooter was killed by police.

While circumstances were not immediately clear, the shooting appeared to be the latest in a string of attacks by Arab assailants ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the anniversary of last year's Gaza war. Israeli media said the attacker was a Palestinian from the West Bank.

The previous two attacks, carried out by Arab citizens of Israel inspired by the Islamic State extremists group, have raised concerns of further violence.

Tuesday's shootings occurred at two locations in Bnei Brak, an ultra-Orthodox city east of Tel Aviv.

Police said a preliminary investigation found the gunman was armed with an assault rifle and opened fire on passersby before he was shot by officers at the scene.

Police said one of the victims was a police officer who arrived at the scene and engaged the shooter.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called an emergency meeting of top security officials later Tuesday.

Bennett said in a statement that Israel "stands before a wave of murderous Arab terrorism" and pledged to combat it "with perseverance, stubbornness and an iron fist."

Israeli media reported that the suspected gunman was a 27-year-old Palestinian man from the northern West Bank town of Yabad. Police did not immediately provide information about the suspect.

Amateur video footage aired on Israeli television appeared to show a gunman in a black shirt armed with an assault rifle shooting into a moving vehicle.

On Sunday, a pair of gunmen killed two police officers during a shooting spree in the central city of Hadera, and last week, a lone assailant killed four people in a car ramming and stabbing attack in the southern city of Beersheba.

Earlier on Tuesday, Israeli security services raided the homes of at least 12 Arab citizens and arrested two suspected of having ties to the Islamic State group in a crackdown sparked by recent deadly attacks.

Hours before the raid, Bennett said the recent assaults inside Israel marked a "new situation" that required stepped-up security measures.

Law enforcement officials said 31 homes and sites were searched overnight in northern Israel, an area that was home to the gunmen who carried out the Hadera attack.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the two previous attacks.

Israeli leaders condemned the killings and pointed to the timing.

Both attacks came ahead of Ramadan, which is likely to start this weekend, and as Israel hosted a high-profile meeting this week between the foreign ministers of four Arab nations and the United States.

All four of the participating Arab nations — Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — along with the U.S., condemned the killings.

Jan. 6 panel IDs 8-hour gap in official Trump phone logs

By Mary Clare Jalonick, Colleen Long and Jill Colvin
Associated Press



Then-President Donald Trump speaks during a rally ahead of the Electoral College certification of Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election victory. **EVAN VUCCI/AP 2021**

WASHINGTON — The House panel investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol has identified a roughly 8-hour gap in official White House records of then-President Donald Trump's phone calls as the violence unfolded and his supporters stormed the building, according to two people familiar with the probe.

The gap extends from a little after 11 a.m. to about 7 p.m. Jan. 6, 2021, and involves White House phone calls, according to one of the people. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing investigation.

The committee is investigating the gap in the official White House log, which includes the switchboard and a daily record of the president's activities. But it does not mean the panel is in the dark about what Trump was doing during that time.

The House panel has made broad requests for separate cell phone records and has talked to more than 800 witnesses, including many of the aides who spent the day with Trump. The committee also has thousands of texts from the cell phone of former chief of staff Mark Meadows.

The committee's effort to piece together Trump's day as his supporters broke into the Capitol underscores the challenge that his habitual avoidance of records laws poses — not only to historians of his tumultuous four years but to the official panel, which intends to capture the full story of the former president's attempt to overturn the election results in hearings and reports later this year.

The panel has trained a particular focus on what the president was doing in the White House as hundreds of his supporters beat police, broke into the Capitol and interrupted the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's 2020 presidential election victory. The missing records raise questions of whether Trump purposefully circumvented official channels to avoid records.

Trump was known to use other people's cell phones to make calls, as well as his own. He often bypassed the White House switchboard, placing calls directly, according to a former aide who requested anonymity to discuss the private calls. In fact, it is not unusual for presidential calls to be channeled through other people.

It is unclear whether the committee has obtained cell phone records related to Trump after issuing a broad records preservation order in August to almost three dozen telecommunications and social media companies. The individuals included in that request included Trump, members of his family and several of his Republican allies in Congress.

The committee also is continuing to receive records from the National Archives and other sources, which could produce additional information and help produce a full picture of the president's communications.

During the eight hours on Jan. 6, Trump addressed a huge crowd of supporters at the nearby Ellipse, repeated falsehoods about his election defeat and told them to walk to the Capitol, make their voices heard and "fight like hell." He then returned to the White House and watched on TV as the mob broke into the Capitol. More than 700 people have been arrested in the violence.

Several of Trump's calls that day are already publicly known. He spoke to Vice President Mike Pence between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., according to a person familiar with that conversation, as he had been lobbying Pence publicly and privately to object while presiding over the certification. He also spoke with several GOP members of the House and Senate as his allies in Congress were preparing to challenge the official vote count.

The exact length of time of the gap was first reported by The Washington Post.

NEWS BRIEFING

SKorea says North did not fire a new ICBM, hints at earlier launch

From news services

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea on Tuesday dismissed North Korea's claim to have launched a newly developed intercontinental ballistic missile last week, accusing the country of firing a less-powerful existing weapon and fabricating data following an earlier failed launch.

North Korea said it launched a Hwasong-17 missile, its longest-range developmental ICBM, last Thursday in its biggest weapons test in years. Its state media called the launch "a historical event" and released a stylized Hollywood-style video showing leader Kim Jong Un, in sunglasses and leather jacket, supervising the launch.

But South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that it has determined that what North Korea fired wasn't a Hwasong-17 but a Hwasong-15, another ICBM that it successfully tested in 2017.

Both missiles are potentially capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. But analysts say the Hwasong-17 has a longer potential range and its huge size suggests that it's designed to carry multiple nuclear warheads to defeat missile defense systems. Believed to be 82 feet long, the Hwasong-17 is, by some estimates, the world's biggest road-mobile ballistic missile system.

The Defense Ministry said it told a parliamentary committee that details of Thursday's launch — such as the missile's speed, combustion and stage separation —were similar to those of the Hwasong-15, not the Hwasong-17. The ministry report to the committee also suggested that the North Korean video wasn't shot on the actual launch date, citing an analysis of Kim's shadow and weather conditions seen in the video.

The report said the United States agreed with the South Korean assessment and is separately analyzing the launch.

Supreme Court case: The Supreme Court on Tuesday cast doubt on Texas' claim that it can't be sued by a former state trooper who says he was forced out of his job when he returned from Army service in Iraq.

The justices heard arguments in a dispute over a federal law that was enacted in 1994 in the wake of the Persian Gulf war to strengthen job protections for returning service members.

The court is weighing an appeal by Le Roy Torres, who spent a year in Iraq and was discharged as a captain after nearly 19 years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Torres says he suffered lung damage from exposure to open burn pits on his base in Iraq.

The state and Torres dispute what happened when he returned to Texas, unable to resume his job as a state trooper because of the damage to his lungs. He eventually resigned and later filed his lawsuit. A state appellate court dismissed it, and the justices stepped in.

The Biden administration is backing Torres' right to sue the state.

US-Mexico border: About 7,000 migrants are being stopped crossing the border daily from Mexico, the U.S. Border Patrol chief said Tuesday, a sharp increase from February that comes as the Biden administration nears a decision on whether to end sweeping asylum restrictions designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Chief Raul Ortiz said 1,500 Cubans were stopped over the previous day, more than double the daily average from February.

The administration is particularly challenged by migrants from countries that have traditionally not sent such large numbers of people to the U.S., including Cuba, Colombia, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Since March 2020, the U.S. has used a public health order aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 to expel migrants more than 1.7 million times without a chance to seek asylum. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to decide this week whether to extend Title 42, named for a 1944 public health law.

Some migrants from countries such as Cuba have continued to be released in the U.S. to pursue asylum because costs and diplomatic challenges prevent the U.S. from sending them home.

'Partygate' scandal: British police have issued 20 fines over illegal parties held by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his staff during coronavirus lockdowns — though the recipients don't yet include Johnson, whose hold on power has been threatened by the illicit gatherings.

The Metropolitan Police force said Tuesday it wouldn't identify the recipients of the fixed penalty notices, but Johnson's office said it would reveal if he gets one.

It wasn't clear whether 20 people received fines or whether some individuals got more than one.

Opponents, and some members of the governing Conservative Party, have said that Johnson should resign if he is issued a fine for breaking rules he imposed on the rest of the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The "partygate" scandal had left Johnson's tenure on a knife-edge before Russia launched a war in Ukraine more than a month ago that gave Britain's politicians more urgent priorities and pushed the scandal from the headlines.

Johnson's government was shaken by public anger over revelations that his staff held "bring your own booze" office parties, birthday celebrations and "wine time Fridays" in 2020 and 2021 while millions in Britain were barred from meeting with friends and family because of his government's COVID-19 restrictions.

Thousands of people were fined $79 to $13,200 by police for rule-breaking social gatherings.

Jailed journalist: An Ethiopian court has ordered Ethiopian journalist Amir Aman Kiyaro to be released on bail after being imprisoned for four months without charges.

A judge in the capital, Addis Ababa, on Tuesday granted bail to Kiyaro while prosecutors determine whether or not to press charges against him. Kiyaro remained in custody while bail procedures were being followed before his expected release.

Kiyaro, 30, a video journalist accredited to The Associated Press, was detained Nov. 28 in Addis Ababa under the country's war-related state of emergency powers.

Kiyaro is accused of "serving the purposes" of what the government has classified a terrorist group by interviewing its officials, according to reports by Ethiopian state media, citing federal police.

Local journalist Thomas Engida was arrested at the same time and faces similar charges.

If the journalists are found guilty of violating Ethiopia's anti-terrorism law or the state of emergency law, they could face sentences of seven to 15 years behind bars, federal police inspector Tesfaye Olani has told state media.



Washington honor: Congressional leaders Nancy Pelosi and Kevin McCarthy pay their respects Tuesday to the late Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, in Statuary Hall as he lies in state, one of a select few chosen for the honor, on Capitol Hill. Young, the longest-serving member of Alaska's congressional delegation, died March 18 on a flight to Alaska. He was 88. **SHAWN THEW/EPA**

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BUSINESS

Saudi oil chief: Attacks put energy security in danger

Assaults by Iran-backed rebels in Yemen could 'affect the world economy'

By Aya Batrawy
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia's oil chief said Tuesday that the markets are going through a "jittery period" and added that the kingdom's ability to ensure energy security is no longer guaranteed.

Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said cross-border attacks have put to question "our ability to supply the world with the necessary energy requirements." The attacks have been carried out by Yemen's rebel Houthis, who are supported by Iran.

"It goes without saying that if this security supply is impacted, it will impact us ... but more fundamentally, I think it also will affect the world economy," he said.

Prince Abdulaziz said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates could once rely on a collective effort to ensure their energy security. "These pillars are no longer there," he added. The prince spoke at the World Government Summit, an event sponsored by the government of Dubai in the UAE.

Oil prices, already at their highest in years, have shot up further amid the Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest oil producer. Brent crude prices traded above $110 a barrel Tuesday, though have soared at times this month past $120.

The Houthis have used drones and missiles to target the kingdom's oil facilities, and have also attacked targets in the UAE's capital of Abu Dhabi. On Friday, they hit a Saudi oil products storage facility in the Red Sea coastal city of Jiddah, sending huge plumes of black smoke into the air that were visible from the vicinity of the Formula One race where practice laps were underway.

The war in Yemen — where a Saudi-led military coalition, which includes the UAE, has been battling the Houthis since 2015 — has rattled these two Gulf Arab states, revealing the vulnerability of their oil facilities.

Saudi Arabia has expressed its frustrations in official statements, saying it will not bear any responsibility for shortages in oil supplies due to the attacks.

Crude oil prices have also been buoyed by a deal struck by leading producers, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, in an alliance known as OPEC+, which limited oil production to keep prices from crashing amid pandemic lockdowns in 2020. The group has stuck to its cautious plan of releasing more barrels on a monthly basis as COVID-19 restrictions have eased. Critics of the plan say the Russian war in Ukraine is roiling markets and sending energy prices soaring for consumers at the pump.

High energy prices have not only benefited oil exporters, but have also helped Russia offset some of the economic pain from Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine.

The U.S., European nations and Japan have either called on Gulf Arab producers with spare capacity to pump more oil or, at a minimum, suggested they should.

Gulf Arab states have been hedging their policies since the start of the Russian invasion, careful not to be seen as choosing a side.



A worker fills up underground tanks Sunday at a BP gas station near Covington, Georgia. **CURTIS COMPTON/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION**

Way to ease pain at the pump

Some states suspend their gas taxes, a temporary move that one expert calls 'gimmicky'

By Giulia Heyward
The New York Times

Seeking to soften the blow of higher gas prices on consumers, some states have suspended their gas taxes, and several other states may soon follow.

Gas prices, which had already been climbing during the pandemic, rose to new highs in recent weeks in part because the war in Ukraine led to more volatility in the energy market. The average cost of gas in the United States hit a record high March 11 at $4.33 per gallon, according to AAA.

Although that number has since declined to an average of $4.24 per gallon, it is still 18% higher than it was last month and 48% more than it was a year ago.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the price at the pump is $1.42 higher than it was a year ago.

Some states are using budget surpluses from federal pandemic aid and increased tax revenue to cover the cost of suspending gas taxes for the next several weeks or months. Others are also considering pausing fares for public transportation.

On March 18, Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland announced the state would suspend its tax of 36.1 cents per gallon for gas, and its slightly higher tax for diesel fuel, for the next 30 days, a measure that will cost the state $100 million.

"As we continue to stand in solidarity against Russian aggression in Ukraine, and as Marylanders face the impact of surging inflation, with the average price of gas rapidly rising, this bipartisan action will provide some relief for the pain at the pump," Hogan said as he signed the bill into law.

That same day, Gov. Brian Kemp of Georgia signed a bill suspending the state's gas tax until May 31.

On March 24, Gov. Ned Lamont of Connecticut announced his state would temporarily suspended the 25 cents per gallon excise tax — as well as fares needed to ride a public bus — from April 1 to June 30.

Officials in other states are considering similar measures.

In Ohio, where gas prices have risen 21% over the past month, Republican lawmakers are considering a gas tax cut that would cost up to $4 billion over the next five years.

In West Virginia, a group of Democratic lawmakers is calling on the governor to suspend gas prices for the next month.

And in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed an $11 billion relief package that would pause the state's gas tax and provide free public transportation to residents.

But while many officials have embraced this kind of legislation, some experts say that a temporary reprieve from state gas taxes is an ill-conceived fix that will only hurt Americans in the long run.

The relief could provide a respite for drivers, and help lower shipping costs for foods, but the moves do not address other people or problems affected by inflation, they argue.

"This is primarily concentrated on drivers, and therefore doesn't provide broader relief from all of the inflation-induced price increase," said Jared Walczak, vice president of state projects at the Center for State Tax Policy, part of the nonprofit Tax Foundation.

Drivers could experience sticker shock once these temporary cuts end and prices revert to normal, he said.

"Even though it will provide some relief at the pump, it's ultimately a fairly gimmicky way of providing relief at a time when consumers are facing higher prices across the board," Walczak said.

Associated Press contributed.

Senate advances Fed nominee on party-line vote

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Tuesday agreed to consider the nomination of Lisa Cook for a position on the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors on a 50-49 party-line vote.

The result suggests that there is sufficient support in the divided Senate to approve Cook, who would be the first Black woman to serve on the Fed's board in its 108-year history. All 50 Senate Democrats voted in favor, while all Republicans, except for Sen. John Kennedy, from Louisiana, voted against her nomination. Kennedy did not vote.

Tuesday's vote was necessary because the Senate Banking Committee deadlocked on her nomination, 12-12. The tie vote meant that the full Senate had to vote to discharge her nomination from the committee so that it could be considered by the Senate.

Republicans, led by Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, the top Republican on the Banking Committee, have argued that Cook is unqualified and is not sufficiently dedicated to fighting inflation, which has reached a four-decade high.

"Professor Cook has nearly zero experience in monetary policy," Toomey said before the vote.

Cook has a doctorate in economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and has been a professor of economics and international relations at Michigan State since 2005. She was also a staff economist on the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2011 to 2012 and was an adviser to Joe Biden's transition team on the Fed and bank regulatory policy.

Her most well-known research has focused on the impact of lynchings and racial violence on African American innovation.

Cook's nomination can now proceed to a vote by the full Senate, along with three other Fed nominees: Chair Jerome Powell, who has been serving in an acting capacity since February, for another four-year term; Fed Governor Lael Brainard, to be the Fed's vice chair; and economist Philip Jefferson, an economist and dean at Davidson College.

Investment group buys Nielsen in $16B deal

By Michelle Chapman
Associated Press

Nielsen is being acquired for $16 billion, including debt, about a week after the media measurement company rejected a $9 billion offer.

Viewing data collected by Nielsen plays a big role in determining where billions in advertising dollars are spent each year. The company itself has annual global revenue of about $3.5 billion.

A group of private equity investors led by Evergreen Coast Capital Corp., an affiliate of Elliott Investment Management L.P., and Brookfield Business Partners L.P., along with institutional partners, will pay $28 for each outstanding Nielsen share.

Nielsen Holdings Plc, based in New York City, turned down the group's previous offer, saying it had significantly undervalued the business.

Nielsen has come under criticism for failing to create new methods of capturing the amount of time people spend watching streaming services, such as Netflix or Hulu. It has become a much more complex task as people now load content onto phones, tablets and other smart devices.

Nielsen is attempting to address those complaints and is expected to launch a cross-media measurement tool by the end of the year.

The board at Nielsen voted unanimously in support of the revised offer, and the company will go private if the transaction closes.

The deal, which is expected to close in the second half of this year, needs approval from Nielsen shareholders and regulators.

However, there is a 45 day go-shop period during which Nielsen can look at and accept other offers, but breaking the agreement with the private equity group comes with a $102 million termination fee.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

FTC sues Intuit over 'free' tax ads

The Federal Trade Commission is suing TurboTax maker Intuit, saying its ads for "free" tax filing misled consumers.

The consumer protection agency said Tuesday that millions of consumers cannot actually use the free tax-prep software option — two-thirds of tax filers in 2020. They are ineligible, the agency says, if they are gig workers or earn farm income, for example.

"TurboTax is bombarding consumers with ads for 'free' tax filing services, and then hitting them with charges when it's time to file," Samuel Levine, director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, said in a statement.

Intuit, based in Mountain View,California, did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

UnitedHealth to buy LHC Group

UnitedHealth Group will spend $5.4 billion to acquire LHC Group and delve deeper into home health, an area of care expected to grow as baby boomers age.

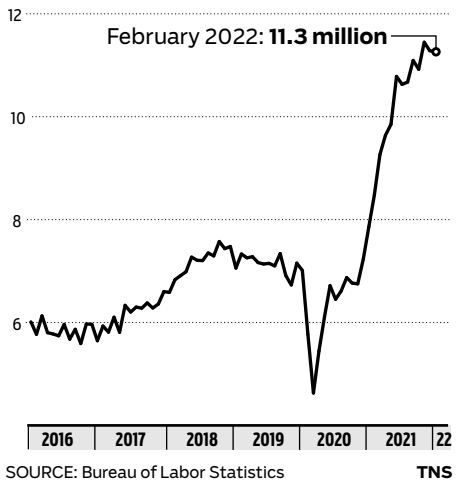
The health care giant said Tuesday that it will pay $170 in cash for each share of LHC's stock in a deal expected to close later this year.

UnitedHealth, which runs the nation's largest health insurer, will add LHC Group Inc. to its Optum Health business, which operates primary care clinics and surgery centers around the country.

LHC Group provides nurses and health aides for in-home health care to patients dealing with injuries, illnesses or chronic conditions. The Lafayette, Louisiana, company has 964 locations in 37 states.

Job openings

Monthly, in millions



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics TNS

BUSINESS



A drone photograph shows snow covering 62-foot-tall and acre-wide oil tanks March 16 at the Valdez Marine Terminal in Alaska. **ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO.**

Crews removing snow from damaged oil tanks in Alaska

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Workers at the end point of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline are using saws to cut up large blocks of hard-packed snow on top of oil storage tanks so they can shove the chunks off the tanks.

More than four feet of snow fell in the community of Valdez between mid-February and mid-March, causing the snow buildup that has damaged infrastructure and vented petroleum vapors into the environment, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

Wet weather then caused the snow to freeze during colder weather, said Donna Schantz, who leads the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council. The group monitors the activities of Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., which operates the pipeline.

The tanks are located at the Valdez Marine Terminal and Alyeska said it has periodically taken some of the 14 tanks out of service. There have been no disruptions to oil shipments, the company said.

As many as 80 contractors wearing respirators to protect them from fumes are working in shifts around the clock to clear the snow off the tanks, Alyeska spokesperson Michelle Egan said. Additional resources are expected.

The contractors are roped to the tops of the tanks and must use handsaws to remove the snow since they can't use power tools because of the risk of sparks that could set the petroleum products in the tanks on fire.

Each of the 14 tanks is 62 feet tall and spans 1 acre. It generally takes a crew of 10 or 11 people up to two weeks to clear snow from each tank.

"That is taking tremendous focus," Egan said. "We do things very methodically, very safely. It takes as long as it takes."

The tanks hold the oil until it is loaded onto tankers for shipment. Alyeska is owned by affiliates of North Slope producers ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil and Hilcorp. The pipeline moves about 500,000 barrels of crude a day through the 800-mile pipeline.

Up to four tanks have been taken out of service at various points after the snow pileup sheared off valves installed along the upper edges of the tank roofs. The valves are part of a system used to regulate vapors coming off the oil, and the accumulated snow created enough downward force to knock off 10 valves, Alyeska said.

Workers are installing temporary caps in place of the damaged valves.

A state regulator said at least seven tanks have released vapors into the atmosphere, violating Alyeska's Clean Air Act permit.

The contractors are wearing respirators because the broken valves are allowing the release of hydrocarbons such as benzene, a carcinogenic chemical that is dangerous at high levels of exposure.

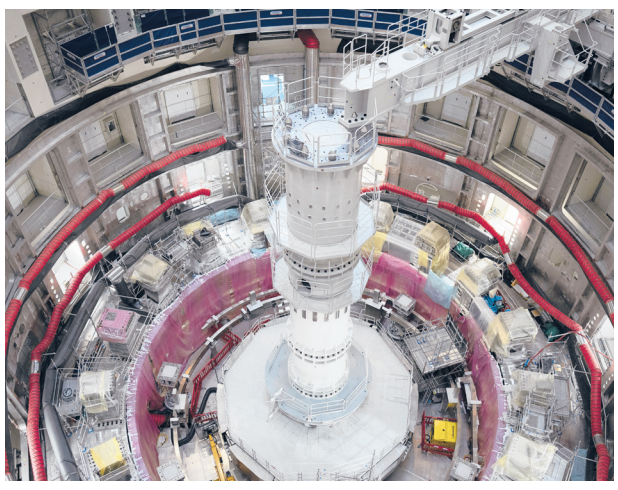
The workers wear traction devices and are roped to the tanks to prevent them from falling.

Four workers have slipped while removing snow, which the company described as "first aid injuries" in a letter to employees.

A copy was obtained by the Anchorage newspaper.

Without Russia, science going solo on world's woes, dreams

By John Leicester
Associated Press



The ITER Tokamak machine in Saint-Paul-Lez-Durance, France. The war in Ukraine is causing broad decaying of scientific ties between Russia and the West. **AP 2021**

PARIS — Without Russian help, climate scientists worry how they'll keep up their important work of documenting warming in the Arctic.

Europe's space agency is wrestling with how its planned Mars rover might survive freezing nights on the Red Planet without its Russian heating unit.

And what of the world's quest for carbon-free energy if 35 nations cooperating on an experimental fusion-power reactor in France can't ship vital components from Russia?

In scientific fields with profound implications for mankind's future and knowledge, Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine is causing a swift and broad decaying of relationships and projects that bound together Moscow and the West. Post-Cold War bridge-building through science is unraveling as Western nations seek to punish and isolate the Kremlin by drying up support for scientific programs involving Russia.

The costs of this decoupling, scientists say, could be high on both sides. Tackling climate change and other problems will be tougher without collaboration and time will be lost. Russian and Western scientists have become dependent on each other's expertise as they have worked together on conundrums from unlocking the power of atoms to firing probes into space. Picking apart the dense web of relationships will be complicated.

The European Space Agency's planned Mars rover with Russia is an example. Arrays of Russian sensors to sniff, scour and study the planet's environment may have to be replaced and a non-Russian launcher rocket found if the suspension of their collaboration becomes a lasting rupture. In that case, the launch, already scrubbed for this year, couldn't happen before 2026.

"We need to untangle all this cooperation which we had, and this is a very complex process, a painful one I can also tell you," said Josef Aschbacher, the ESA director. "Dependency on each other, of course, creates also stability and, to a certain extent, trust. And this is something that we will lose, and we have lost now, through the invasion of Russia in Ukraine."

International indignation and sanctions on Russia are making formal collaborations difficult or impossible. Scientists who became friends are staying in touch informally but plugs are being pulled on their projects big and small. The European Union is freezing Russian entities out of its main $105 billion fund for research, suspending payments and saying they'll get no new contracts.

In the United States, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology severed ties with a research university it helped establish in Moscow. The oldest and largest university in Estonia won't accept new students from Russia and ally Belarus. The president of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tarmo Soomere, says the breaking of scientific connections is necessary but also will hurt.

"We are in danger of losing much of the momentum that drives our world towards better solutions, (a) better future," he said. "Globally, we are in danger of losing the core point of science — which is obtaining new and essential information and communicating it to others."

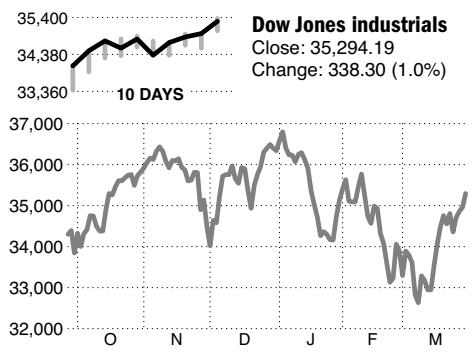
An online petition by Russian scientists and workers opposed to the war says it has more than 8,000 signatories. They warn that by invading Ukraine, Russia has turned itself into a pariah, which "means that we can't normally do our work as scientists, because conducting research is impossible without full-fledged cooperation with foreign colleagues."

The estrangement is being pushed by Russian authorities too. An order from the Science Ministry suggested that scientists no longer need bother getting research published in scientific journals, saying they'll no longer be used as benchmarks for the quality for their work.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

DOW 35,294.19 +338.30 ▲
10-YR T-BOND 2.40% -.07 ▼
GOLD $1,912.00 -27.60 ▼



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 35,294.19
Change: 338.30 (1.0%)

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,294.19	+338.30	-2.87%
DOW Trans.	16,718.54	+235.75	+1.46%
DOW Util.	1,033.32	+11.29	+5.36%
NYSE Comp.	17,014.76	+216.04	-.87%
Nasdaq Comp.	14,619.64	+264.73	-6.55%
S&P 500	4,631.60	+56.08	-2.82%
S&P 400	2,773.72	+56.68	-2.40%
Wilshire 5000	46,717.15	+694.81	-3.60%
Russell 2000	2,133.10	+55.04	-5.00%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	104.24	105.96	+38.60%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	5.26	5.51	+40.88%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.20	3.22	+43.76%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,912.00	1,939.60	+4.62%
Silver (oz)	24.72	25.18	+5.95%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3094	.7637
Canada	.8003	1.2495
China	.1571	6.3642
Euro	1.1089	.9018
Japan	.008136	122.91
Mexico	.050173	19.9308

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.50
3-mo. T-Bill	0.57	0.61
6-mo. T-Bill	1.05	1.08
5-yr T-Note	2.49	2.54
10-yr T-Note	2.40	2.47
30-yr T-Bond	2.53	2.57

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,820.33	+402.96	+2.80%	-6.70%
London	7,537.25	+64.11	+.86%	+2.07%
Hong Kong	21,927.63	+242.66	+1.12%	-6.28%
Nikkei	28,252.42	+308.53	+1.10%	-1.87%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	29.44	+.11	+8.2
AT&T Inc (T)	23.99	+.12	-2.5
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	123.23	+2.99	-14.4
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.16	+.86	+1.1
Amphenol Corp (APH)	77.36	+1.55	-11.5
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.43	+.11	-5.0
Apple Inc (AAPL)	178.96	+3.36	+.8
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	46.64	+.25	-6.5
Bank of America (BAC)	43.44	-.11	-2.4
Barnes Group (B)	41.29	+.43	-11.4
BitNile Holdings Inc (NILE)	.87	-.08	-26.9
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2371.92	+95.10	-1.1
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	73.23	+.12	+17.4
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	104.68	-3.36	+1.5
Carnival Corp (CCL)	19.93	+.53	-.9
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	48.08	+1.19	-11.4
Charter Communic (CHTR)	572.33	+7.08	-12.2
Cigna Corp (CI)	243.34	-.32	+6.0
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.78	+.25	-5.1
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	3.06	+.04	-38.6
Disney (DIS)	142.38	+3.66	-8.1
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	115.55	+1.45	-9.3
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	11.05	+.17	+34.3
Ethan Allen (ETD)	27.66	+.49	+5.2
Eversource Energy (ES)	87.78	+.75	-3.5
Ford Motor (F)	17.75	+1.08	-14.5
fuboTV Inc (FUBO)	7.60	+.52	-51.0
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.24	+.13	+20.0
Gen Dynamics (GD)	241.09	+.20	+15.6
Gen Electric (GE)	94.65	+2.65	+.2
Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg (DNA)	4.59	+.85	-44.8
Guardforce AI Co Ltd (GFAI)	1.39	+.21	+28.7
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	73.38	+.98	+6.3
Honeywell Intl (HON)	197.54	+.43	-5.3
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	14.06	-.07	-11.7
Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	2.59	+.27	+321.8
IGM Biosciences Inc (IGMS)	29.49	+14.50	+.5
IQIYI Inc (IQ)	5.02	+.30	+10.1
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	1.54	-.14	-28.0
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	25.11	+.39	-.8
Kaman (KAMN)	44.82	+.11	+3.9
Keycorp (KEY)	23.63	+.20	+2.2
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	68.14	+.85	-.2
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	27.36	+1.98	-28.1
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	43.61	+1.42	-2.8

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	229.86	+6.27	-31.7
MetLife Inc (MET)	71.51	+.23	+14.4
Micron Tech (MU)	82.05	+2.19	-11.9
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	315.41	+4.71	-6.2
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	2.35	-.10	-55.1
Nielsen Hldgs plc (NLSN)	26.72	+4.51	+30.3
Novartis AG (NVS)	87.51	+.52	...
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	286.56	+4.37	-2.6
Occid Petl (OXY)	56.79	+.15	+95.9
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	78.65	+.64	-9.7
PG&E Corp (PCG)	12.01	-.03	-1.1
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	14.20	+.78	-22.0
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	21.46	+.28	+20.4
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	52.74	-.54	-10.7
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	5.53	+.38	-16.6
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	120.86	+.80	+11.7
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	69.10	+.58	+3.6
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	101.08	-.51	+17.5
Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	15.91	+3.10	-10.4
Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.84	+.49	-.1
SS&C Technlogies (SSNC)	78.65	+1.26	-4.1
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	10.14	+.89	-35.9
Sonos Inc (SONO)	30.95	+.75	+3.9
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	7.00	-.29	+50.2
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	146.37	+5.38	-22.4
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.77	+.65	+1.9
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.73	-.05	+25.4
Tellurian Inc (TELL)	5.12	-.31	+66.2
Terex Corp (TEX)	38.22	+1.25	-13.0
Tilray Brands Inc (TLRY)	8.32	+.33	+18.3
Travelers Cos (TRV)	183.81	-2.95	+17.5
Uber Technologies (UBER)	37.19	+2.42	-11.3
United Rentals (URI)	365.20	+1.80	+9.9
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	510.73	-2.47	+1.7
Virgin Galactic Hldg (SPCE)	11.01	+1.25	-17.7
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	247.37	+7.14	-16.7
Voya Financial (VOYA)	68.33	+1.43	+3.0
Webster Financial (WBS)	59.46	+.40	+6.5
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1089.92	+10.70	+7.5
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	63.10	+2.10	+27.9
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	78.30	+.70	+1.1
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	20.82	+.26	-8.0



Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

Myths of West's decadence foil Putin



Paul Krugman

Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine was a crime — indeed, the war crimes continue as you read this. But it was also a blunder. In just over a month, Putin has destroyed Russia's military reputation, battered his nation's economy and strengthened the democratic alliances he hoped to undermine. How could he have made such a catastrophic mistake?

Part of the answer is strongman syndrome: Putin has surrounded himself with people who tell him what he wants to hear. All indications are that he went into this debacle believing his own propaganda about both his army's martial prowess and the eagerness of Ukrainians to submit to Russian rule.

But there's also reason to think Putin, like many of his admirers in the West, thought modern democracies were too decadent to offer effective resistance.

When I look at the United States, I worry that the West is, in fact, being made weaker by decadence — but not the kind that obsesses Putin and those who think like him. Our vulnerability comes not from the decline of traditional family values but from the decline of traditional democratic values, such as a belief in the rule of law and a willingness to accept the results of elections that don't go your way.

Of course, the idea that loose morals destroy great powers goes back centuries. In the Hollywood version of history, the Roman Empire fell because its elites were too busy with orgies to attend to the business of defeating barbarians. I'll get back to that in a minute.

Today's right-wingers seem bothered less by weakness from sexual license than by weakness from gender equality: Tucker Carlson warned that China's military was becoming "more masculine" while ours was becoming "more feminine, whatever feminine means anymore, since men and women no longer exist." Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, retweeted a video comparing a U.S. Army recruiting video with footage of a Russian paratrooper with a shaved head and declared that a "woke, emasculated military" might not be a good idea.

The heavy casualties suffered by Russia's anti-woke military as it failed to overrun vastly inferior Ukrainian forces have confirmed what anyone who has studied history knows: Modern wars aren't won with swaggering machismo. Courage and endurance, physical and moral, are as essential as ever, but so are more mundane things like logistics, vehicle maintenance and working communications systems.

By the way, I can't help mentioning that recent events have also confirmed the truism that many, perhaps most men who pose as tough guys aren't. Putin's response to failure in Ukraine has been extremely Trumpian: insisting that his invasion is all going "according to plan," refusing to admit having made any mistakes and whining about cancel culture.

But back to decadence that matters.

As I said, the Hollywood version of Rome's decline and fall doesn't stand up under examination. True, the spoils of empire made it possible for a few people to live in great luxury, possibly including the occasional orgy; the closest modern counterpart to that elite would be Russian oligarchs. But Rome retained its territorial integrity and military effectiveness for centuries after the emergence of that pampered, libertine elite.

So what did go wrong? Historians have many theories, but a big factor was the erosion of norms that had helped establish political legitimacy and the ever-growing willingness of some Romans to use violence against one another.

Obviously what's going on in the U.S. today bears no detailed resemblance to the troubles of the ancient world. Yet these days not a month goes by without further revelations that a large part of America's body politic, very much including members of the political elite, has contempt for democratic principles and will do whatever it takes to win.

It's incredible how quickly we've normalized the fact that the last president tried to retain power despite losing the election and that a mob he incited stormed the U.S. Capitol. Many people took part in the effort to overturn the election — among them, we recently learned, the wife of a sitting Supreme Court justice, who hasn't even recused himself in cases about the attempted coup.

And while Donald Trump's effort to stay in office failed, most of his party has, in effect, retroactively backed that effort.

Why is that relevant to Ukraine? Putin effectively bet that an effete West would stand by as he carried out his conquest. Instead, President Joe Biden very effectively mobilized a democratic alliance in response.

But the next time something like this happens, America might not lead an effective alliance of democracies, because we ourselves will have given up on democratic values.

Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.

How to give Putin an out, and make him repent

By Clive Crook
Bloomberg Opinion



Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, top commander in charge of the defense of the Ukrainian capital, in a trench Tuesday near Kyiv. **VADIM GHIRDA/AP**

What should the U.S. and Europe be trying to achieve in Ukraine? It's clear enough what they would like to happen.

They'd like Ukraine to crush Russia's forces, the West's sanctions to cripple Russia's economy, and Vladimir Putin to fail so obviously and completely that he gets driven from power.

The idea that Ukraine can defeat Putin's army is a lot more plausible than it was a few weeks ago. Even so, given the enormous imbalance of military resources and Putin's proven ruthlessness, it remains unlikely. Hoping for a Ukrainian victory in this war is one thing; aiming for it regardless of the consequences is quite another.

Ukraine's resistance has been remarkably brave and skillful. The incompetence of the Russian military has been almost as surprising. Ukraine's fighters, it seems, might be capable of not just blocking Russia's advances but reversing them. All they need, it's argued, is more and better weapons, together with ever stronger sanctions on Putin's regime.

Keep in mind, however, that this is a bet on Putin's capacity for restraint — and the odds aren't favorable. Forced to choose between overt defeat and further escalation, the record suggests he'll pick the latter. The death of innocents doesn't trouble him, as his conduct in Ukraine (and Syria and Chechnya) makes clear. He has the means to escalate, not just with conventional bombardment of Ukraine's cities but with chemical and nuclear weapons.

If he feels he has nothing left to lose, then gambling on resurrection, even at the risk of destroying everything around him, might be his preferred exit.

Escalation might not lead all the way to nuclear war — an outcome more thinkable now than it has been for decades — but it would certainly mean more death and destruction in Ukraine. This makes aiming for Putin's outright defeat very dangerous. The immediate goal should be to pause the conflict by allowing Putin something he can call success. Punishing and subsequently defeating him is vital — but that should be a longer-term project, best not pursued over more dead bodies in Ukraine.

The fact that the war has gone badly for Putin makes a cease-fire and temporary settlement possible. The main components could be as follows. Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government remains in place. Ukraine agrees with NATO that it won't join the Atlantic alliance. (Zelenskyy has said he's willing to accept this.) Russia withdraws from the north, but its gains in the east and south of Ukraine are frozen, their status to be determined in due course. A security conference of NATO, Ukraine and Russia devises guarantees of Ukraine's independence and sovereignty. The West starts to roll back its sanctions.

All these components involve complications, but something along these lines seems feasible. It would be a fragile and unjust peace — as many such settlements are — and much less than a "win" for Ukraine. Putin could call it vindication, which is precisely why he might go for it. But, in the short term, it would leave the West and (especially) Ukraine better off than they would be under the most plausible alternative: further escalation. The allies should be working toward this short-term goal.

Beyond the short term, the calculation changes. Even if Putin is allowed to deny it, he has been humiliated by Ukraine's resistance and his army's poor performance, and this will serve as one check on his future actions.

Nonetheless, the accommodation needed to stop the war would weaken NATO if nothing further happened. The West will have flinched under duress. (Indeed it already has by failing to provide direct military support. To avoid greater harm, it believed it had no choice.) Looking farther ahead, recognizing this setback and repairing the damage would demand a fundamental rethink of the allies' approach to Russia.

Business as usual should be off the table for as long as Putin or somebody like him is in charge, and regardless of whether a temporary peace in Ukraine holds. The allies should strengthen their eastern members — not loudly to make a point, but resolutely, as though a wider war could actually happen, as indeed it could. (NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg announced the deployment of new battle groups in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia last week — a start, at least.) Defense spending and planning need to be comprehensively reexamined in this brutal new light.

Relying on Russia for energy or anything else should be out of the question. (Again, the U.S. and Europe have taken a small first step by boosting American supplies of gas, but there's much more to do.) Removal of some sanctions would be part of the short-term deal, but not with a view to eventually restoring normal trade relations. The longer-term policy should be Cold War 2, with no more illusions about drawing Putin's Russia into an amicable partnership of any kind.

Settling this score and containing Putin's criminality is the work of many years. Starting from here, given the mistakes already made and the allies' reluctance to broaden the conflict, victory for Ukraine is a reckless ambition. Better to help Putin step back — then, in the fullness of time, make him repent.

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Democrats need to break pandemic funding stalemate now

By Jonathan Bernstein
Bloomberg Opinion

Democrats should be pushing hard this week — not next week! — to break the logjam preventing full funding for pandemic prevention and treatment. There's no excuse not to get it done.

Some policy decisions are difficult. Economists disagreed on the best size of last spring's relief bill. I don't think anyone has a good idea of what President Joe Biden could have done to prevent the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In some cases, it's hard to know what electoral effects a policy might have; there are often trade-offs that are difficult to calculate. Sometimes, elected officials have to balance what they think are popular ideas with their impact on the nation. And then there are times when elected officials are stuck between intense demands of party actors who are lined up against public opinion among the bulk of voters.

Pandemic funding presents none of these problems. The need for vaccines, testing, treatment and more, all detailed by the White House some time ago, is obvious. This kind of spending is surely popular among most voters and among Democratic Party actors. There's no long-term drawback; to the contrary, some of the spending the White House is requesting can be even more important in the long run than it is right now. And it is critical to Democratic hopes in 2022 and 2024. It's impossible to prove that Biden's approval slump was caused by the delta and omicron waves of COVID-19, and from the indirect effects of those setbacks on supply chains, job markets and inflation, but it's almost certainly a major contributing factor.

Every possible consideration should be pushing Democrats to get this done. Right away. Indeed, there's a good argument that they should be doing quite a bit more, especially for long-run challenges, but for now? The pandemic isn't gone, and therefore the government response can't be over.

And every Democrat in Congress (and quite a few Republicans!) know it.

The stalemate in Congress that forced appropriators to drop coronavirus funding from the spending bill that passed earlier this month, has to do with how (and whether) to pay for the $15.6 billion that Congress was about to include. The answer is simple: Get it done.

Yes, Democrats may be angry that many Republicans in the House of Representatives won't vote for spending bills even when those same Republicans think that much of that spending is essential. Yes, that's irresponsible. They may also be upset that Senate Republicans filibuster everything, including urgently needed money to fight a pandemic. And surely a lot of Democrats are frustrated that many of their legislative priorities have stalled and that Republicans have opposed many of those priorities and are unwilling to compromise, even though they do appear willing to strike a deal on coronavirus funding.

Tough luck. Democrats are free to use those votes against Republicans (as they've done by attacking Republicans for voting against funding for Ukraine when they opposed the $1.5 trillion spending bill).

But how Republicans vote is beyond their control. Taking an available deal to get this money in place is within their control. Senate Republicans are reportedly using the filibuster to gain bargaining leverage, not to block funding. For better or worse, that's fair play under the rules and norms of Congress.

Besides, Democrats with longer memories will recall that the filibuster and Republican irresponsibility gave Democrats considerable leverage during Donald Trump's presidency, including during 2017-2018 when Republicans had unified control.

There's been little reporting on any progress toward cutting a deal. Perhaps everyone was waiting until now. Perhaps progress is happening away from the television cameras. Either way, time is running out. Democrats need to know that if a new wave of virus shows up and the government doesn't have enough tests, enough vaccines and enough treatments because of a Capitol Hill budget squabble, voters are going to blame the majority party and the president from that party.

It should be the absolute No. 1 legislative priority for every Democrat until it gets done.

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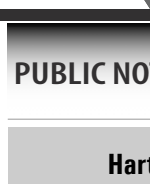
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Announcements

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FARMINGTON IMPOUND #47 - Small Male Terrier Mix Tan & Black. Call Farmington Animal Control 860-675-2440

IMPOUND - #324 Bulldog mix, female, black and white. Call Hartford PD 860-757-4000

IMPOUNDED CAT - 6 mos, black & white, male. Found on I-91 near exit 38. Call Windsor Animal Control 860-219-9832

Auto & SUV's

BMW 740 2001 - $2950 negotiable 740i Good Condition, Nice Driving 860-539-4439

HUMMER H3 2006 - $5900 Black Ext Tan Int New Tires, Runs Well 860-539-4439

NISSAN ALTIMA 2019 $24500 All Wheel Drive, Many Options, Like New Condition 16,000 miles 860-605-6895

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX 2002 - $1350 OBO. GT. Runs, engine light on, new parts. Call: 860-623-9570

VOLVO S70 2000 - $5000 136,450 mi Well Maintd, Lthr Seats Bosch Sound, Exc Cond 860-978-0183

Antiques/ Classics



FORD MODEL A 1929 - $19500 4 dr, blind back, older restoration, rebuilt engine, L&B interior, runs & drives excellent! 860-828-7600

MERCEDES-BENZ 300SL 1991 $17000 Excellent condition classic convertible with hard top. Always garaged. 802-436-2962

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 1053 Cromwell Ave. Rocky Hill, CT 06067 to satisfy a lien on April 12th, 2022 at approx. 11:30 am at www.storagetreasures.com.
Cube #B213: Benjamin Cruz,
Cube #B265: Breah Clay-Bay,
Cube #B372: Marcy Peterson,
3/30 & 3/31/22 7175804

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Is seeking a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) for the East Hartford Public Schools District. East Hartford Public Schools, Operations & Finance
1110 Main Street, East Hartford, CT 06108
Request for Proposal – RFP # 1811-22
Food Service Management Company Contract is available at the State of CT/DAS/CTSource/Bidboard Portal:
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3/30/22 7179882

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Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF NEWINGTON

This is to give notice that the Newington Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. in Town Council Chambers, Room 103 and via Zoom Webinar Software in Newington, CT in accordance with the provisions of Section 805 of the Newington Town Charter.

The Newington Town Council submits the following summary of the proposed budget estimates of expenditures and receipts for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year.

GENERAL FUND
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

FUNCTION	TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED	TOWN COUNCIL TENTATIVE
General Government	$ 6,241,049	$6,241,049
Public Safety	9,789,718	9,789,718
Public Works	5,618,029	5,618,029
Community Planning & Development	570,161	570,161
Public Health	209,305	209,305
Community Services	1,113,974	1,113,974
Public Library	1,782,256	1,782,256
Parks & Recreation	1,899,432	1,899,432
Insurance - Miscellaneous	11,580,349	11,580,349
Sub-Total	$38,804,273	$38,804,273
Debt Service	2,528,070	2,528,070
Metropolitan District	4,886,175	4,886,175
Capital Improvements	7,247,415	7,247,415
Equipment Reserve	1,310,424	1,310,424
Emp Leave Liab Res Fund	59,600	59,600
Board of Education	78,068,011	78,068,011
Total	$132,903,968	$132,903,968

REVENUE SUMMARY

	TOWN MANAGER'S ESTIMATE	TOWN COUNCIL TENTATIVE
Current Taxes	$98,211,407	$98,211,407
Prorated Taxes	1,130,637	1,130,637
Prior Years Taxes	400,000	400,000
Interest & Liens	350,000	350,000
Motor Vehicle Tax	8,540,000	8,540,000
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	3,760,127	3,760,127
Assessments	16,248	16,248
Licenses & Permits	359,500	359,500
Rentals	100,000	100,000
Investment Income	100,000	100,000
Fines	22,000	22,000
Charges for Services	559,600	559,600
Refunds & Reimbursements	22,000	22,000
Sale of Town Property	5,020	5,020
State Aid	16,575,535	16,575,535
Federal Aid	9,000	9,000
Miscellaneous	60,000	60,000
Donations	0	0
Transfers from Other Funds	182,894	182,894
Sub-Total	$130,403,968	$130,403,968
General Fund Balance Applied	2,500,000	2,500,000
Total	$132,903,968	$132,903,968

Dated at Newington, Connecticut this 30th day of March, 2022.
NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
7180842 3/30/2022

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Hartford

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

330 WINDSOR AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER
GYMNASIUM HVAC EFFICIENCY UPGRADES
330 WINDSOR AVENUE, WINDSOR, CT 06095

1. Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the HVAC GYMNASIUM HVAC PROJECT AT 330 WINDSOR AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER in Windsor, Connecticut will be received by Jim Bourke, Director of Finance, Finance Department, Town of Windsor, CT 06095 until Thursday APRIL 21, 2022 11:00 AM. As determined by the Finance Department's (Purchasing Agent's) clock, at which time they will be opened in Windsor Town Hall. It is the responsibility of the contractor to be certain that all sealed bids are stamped in at the Finance Department's office by the designated date and time. No Bids will be accepted after said date and time. Signed non-collusion and subcontractors list forms must be completed and included with your bid to be considered.

2. Specification and Bid Packages may be viewed at:
RFP Proposal is included in Project Specification Manual.
Town of Windsor Engineering Office, 275 Broad Street, Windsor, CT 06095.
Town of Windsor Website; http://www.townofwindsorct.com/towninfo/rfp
CT DAS Contracting Portal website.

3. Pre-bid Meeting: There will be a Mandatory pre-bid meeting at the site (enter main entrance, assemble in gymnasium) on Wednesday April 6, 2022 10:00 am.

4. Bid Security: Bid security payable to the Town of Windsor is required in the amount of five percent (5%) of the base bid proposal, and shall be in the form of a certified check or Bid Bond. Bid Bonds must be AIA Document A310 or comparable legal bond form, issued by a Surety Company licensed in Connecticut. Signed Non-Collusion form by officer must be with bid to be considered.

5. Drawings and Specifications: Bidders may obtain hard copies of complete sets of Bidding Documents available at Advanced Reprographics upon a non-refundable payment to be advised at the time of order/pick-up for EACH SET. Make check payable to Advance Reprographics. Go to www.advancedrepro.net and click on "ACCESS OUR PLANROOM" on the bottom of the page and select "PUBLIC JOBS." Plans and specifications will be available for viewing and purchasing.

6. Performance and Payment Bond: A performance and payment bond in the full amount of the Contract is required, and shall be included in the bid price. AIA Document A311 or comparable legal bond form shall be used as the form for the bond, except that such bond must be consistent with Supplementary Instruction to Bidders.

7. Bidder's attention is particularly called to the requirements as to the conditions of employment to be observed, and to the minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract. The bidder must submit certified payrolls throughout the project. Prevailing Wages apply if bid is over $100,000.

8. No bidder may withdraw his bid within ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.
9. This contract is subject to state set-aside and contract compliance requirements.

10. The Town of Windsor reserves the right to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, or to waive defects in same, or to accept any proposal, or part thereof, deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Windsor for whatever reason. The project will be awarded to the lowest responsible and qualified bidder.
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Dated at Town of Windsor, CT March 30, 2022, Windsor Public Building Commission.
3/20/22 7180212

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Connecticut

Legal Notice
Request for Proposals
Automated Work Zone Speed Control
Design-Build Pilot Project

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage a contracting firm to provide services related to Automated Work Zone Speed Control pilot project. More detailed information regarding this project can be found at:
https://webprocure.perfect.com/wp-web-public/#/bidboard/bid/98540?customerid=51
Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
3/17-4/1/2022 7171086

The Capital Region Development Authority ("CRDA"), a quasi-public agency of the state of Connecticut, is seeking a qualified consultant to provide project coordination services in the Parkville neighborhood. Please use the following link to access the RFP:
https://crdact.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3-22-2022-RFP-ParkvilleDevelopmentCoordinationServices.pdf.
3/26 - 4/25/2022 7177253

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
643 Farmington Ave.
New Britain, CT 06053
860-357-6161
4/13/2022 at 1:00 PM
Unit 122 Keith Matthews clothes, household items
Unit 230 Cirrisa Henry 1 bedroom home.
Unit 564 Hector Ontanez clothes, furniture, beds, boxes of electronics
Unit 649 Alexis Martinez 3 BR apt, DR set, TVS
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
3/30, 4/6/2022 7178291

Request for Quotation #02-2121A

The State of Connecticut Judicial Branch invites qualified vendors to submit quotations to provide Plastic Tamper Evident Property Bags and Polyolefin Mailer Envelopes.

Quotations must be received by 11:30 A.M. on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022. Late bids will not be accepted.

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www.jud.ct.gov/external/news/busopp/

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3/30/202 7180912

Torrington CT Minority Opportunity – Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice; Torrington CT-Slaiby Village-Torrington Housing Authority. Trades; carpentry, shingle roofing, portable restrooms. Material Supply; flat stock metal, lumber. Our bid submits on Friday, April 1, 2022. If additional time is needed for your submission please call our estimating department. Interested parties are asked to contact us at subcontracting@silktownroofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
3/30/2022 7181111

Request for Proposal
Food Service Management Company

Windsor Locks Public Schools invites the submission of sealed proposals at the Board of Education Business Office, 58 South Elm St., Windsor Locks, CT 06096 until May 2, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. for the following: Food Service Management contract for the school district. Proposal requirements are available on the State of CT contracting portal (https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/CTSource) or on our school website (www.wlps.org/departments/BusinessOffice/RFPs). There will be a MANDATORY pre-bid walk through on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. at the Board of Ed Offices, which are located at the back of Windsor Locks High School.
3/30/2022 7181214

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CHIHUAHUA Long hair mix. Sweet companion, 4 yr, 14 lbs, male. Shots, neut, microchipped. Owner developed asthma, $475 to defray expenses. Call 860-643-0204.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER AKC yellow Labrador retriever - males and females, 10 weeks, up to date on shots. $1500 Call 860-634-3263



MAL-SHI Pups for sale. Hypoallergenic & non shedding. $2000 # 401-527-2491.

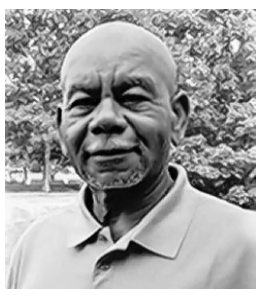
OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Bloomfield
Marvin A. Blair, Sr.
Bristol
Janice E. Morse
Cromwell
Walter Shelton
East Hartford
Jeffrey Bogdan
Gary D. Wilkos, Jr.
Ellington
Gary D. Wilkos, Jr.
Farmington
Dennis W. Brown
Glastonbury
J. V. Congdon
Mary W. Crocker
Hartford
Joseph A. Camilleri, Sr.
Penelope L Cruz
Manchester
Jeffrey Bogdan
Mary W. Crocker
Meriden
David S. Powell
Middletown
Janice E. Morse
Edward Schilke, Jr.
New Britain
Jean Haltner
Walter J. Lagosz
Newington
Lynn Aseltine
Jean Haltner
Old Lyme
Thomas C. Stanton
Other Towns in CT
Jacquelyn Armstrong
Kenneth Greika
William E. Mccarthy, Jr.
Out of State
Edward Schilke, Jr.
Plainville
Emilia Bucci
J. Norman Rabideau
Walter Shelton
Portland
J. V. Congdon
William E. Mccarthy, Jr.
Rocky Hill
Lynn Aseltine
Southington
Walter J. Lagosz
Sally Lanza
John Savage
Wethersfield
George W. Myers
Windsor
Jacquelyn Armstrong
Windsor Locks
John T. Fedo

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Shelton, Walter



The world lost a giant on Sunday, March 27th when Walter Shelton peacefully left this earth for God's Kingdom. Walter Shelton was a beloved husband, uncle, brother, cousin, friend, colleague, coach, teammate, and counselor.
Walter was born in Hartford on November 19, 1949 and was the son of the late Arline Benford Jackson and Walter Cee Shelton. Walter and his Mom Arline were two peas in a pod. Walter lived in Plainville where he excelled as an athlete in basketball, baseball and football. At Southern Connecticut College Walter was a star on the football and track and field teams. In 1967 Walter was selected as an All-State Connecticut (Football) and in 2003 was inducted into the Plainville High School Sports Hall of Fame.
After graduating from Southern Walter moved to Southern California where he continued his love of athletics by teaching Physical Education. In 1997 he received the California PE Teacher of the Year award. Walter received his master's degree from Azusa Pacific University in 2001 and went on to a successful career as a Counselor at Etiwanda High School. His passion for guiding and mentoring young people was always a priority in his life.
In 2015 Walter retired and he and his wife, Pat moved back to Connecticut. As a resident at River Highlands, TPC Walter liked to say, "Life is Good...I can golf every day." Walter took that passion for golf to First Tee – Connecticut where he coached and mentored young people.

When a loved one passes, we sometimes ask ourselves, what is the measure of a life well lived? You can look no further than Walter Shelton because he had it figured out. He made a difference in so many lives. Walter was a man that radiated positivity, kindness, and compassion for others. If you spoke to Walter for five minutes, you'd know he loved his soulmate and wife of 34 years - Pat, his friends and family, mentoring youth, Tiger Woods, golf, the Cowboys and the Lady Huskies! Despite battling a disease that was slowly taking away his physical abilities – he remained so grateful for all his blessings. His final post on social media demonstrated that, "I feel the prayers, support and hope. I am challenged every day, but I don't quit. I still believe in a power greater than myself. Thank you all for everything."
The outpouring of tributes from former teammates, colleagues, students, friends, and family are a testament to Walter's well lived life. He is being remembered for his courage, honesty, ability to give, fortitude, inspiration as a high school counselor, encouragement, words of wisdom, positive influence, nurturing, his laughter, his booming voice, his hugs, his genuineness, his athletic prowess, for changing so many lives for the better, having your back, making others feel appreciated, knowing the right thing to say to someone who needed a pep talk, being authentic, providing a safe space for others and being a super human being.
Walter knew how to make people feel appreciated. He influenced many students who credit him with making a huge impact on their lives by encouraging them to reach for goals they didn't think possible. His pep talks left students feeling lighter! His colleagues all said it was an honor to work with Walter. One colleague said, "Most of the kids were in awe of him to begin with, then as they got to know him, they loved him. They respected him so much and wanted so much to follow him in doing the 'right thing.' What an impact he had on so many kids!!"
We should all take a page out of Walter's playbook as to how to achieve a life well lived. Walter – you are loved and are missed by everyone who knew you. You crossed the finish line far too soon. We hope you are playing your best round of golf in Heaven. You have left us all with memories that will never fade and shown us the way to live. You made difference to so many.
Relatives and friends may call at Plainville Funeral Home, 81 Broad Street, Plainville on Friday (April 1, 2022) between 5 and 7 PM. A short service will be administered by a Minister at 7 PM, where friends are invited to speak. A Celebration of Life event will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 1 PM to 3 PM at First Tee – Connecticut, 55 Golf Club Road in Cromwell, CT. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations in Walter's name be made to First Tee – Connecticut by visiting https://firstteeconnecticut.org/ or mail to 55 Golf Club Road, Cromwell, CT 06416. For more information or to leave online expressions of sympathy, please visit www.PLAINVILLEFUNERALHOME.com.

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Savage, John



John E. "Jack" Savage, 77, beloved husband of Marie (Martinelli) Savage, of Southington passed away on March 27, 2022 at Hartford Hospital with family by his side. Calling hours will be held Sunday, April 3, 2022 from 1-3 PM at the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated, Monday, April 4 th at 10 AM at St. Dominic Church in Southington. He will be buried with full military honors at South End Cemetery in Plantsville. For online condolences and directions please visit www.dellavecchiasouthington.com.

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OBITUARIES

Congdon, J. Victor

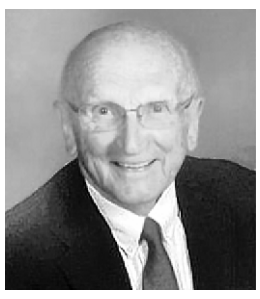


Joseph "Victor (Vic)" Congdon, 84, of Portland passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was the beloved husband of Beryl (Waskey) Congdon, and she was the love of his life.
Born in Medford, Massachusetts, Victor was the son of the late Joseph Victor and Ruth (McAbery) Congdon. He was an avid Boston sports fan and a childhood friend of Bill Monbouquette who went on to pitch for the Red Sox. He graduated from Tufts University with a B.S in Chemical Engineering and later completed his MBA from the University of Hartford.
After graduating from college, he began his career in Boston with Revere Sugar and then worked briefly at Honeywell. He moved to Connecticut in 1962 when he was recruited to join Pratt and Whitney in the early stages of fuel cell development. The company manufactured fuel cells for NASA and the Apollo space program to supply electric power and drinking water for the astronauts. His family learned from an early age that hydrogen plus oxygen creates H2O plus energy. Victor continued his career with the company as it grew and became International Fuel Cells, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation. After 37 years of dedicated service, he retired in 1999 from his position as the Operations Manager of the South Windsor facility. He loved the people he worked with and always spoke highly of them.
He has been a longtime Portland resident, moving from Glastonbury thirty-four years ago. Prior to moving to Glastonbury in 1975, he and his family lived in Manchester with many caring and loving neighbors.
In his retirement years, Victor applied his vocational knowledge of OSHA regulations and safety procedures to Camp Berea, a Christian camp on Newfound Lake in New Hampshire where he served as a volunteer board member for over ten years.
He loved to spend time at the ocean experiencing the sound of the waves and enjoyed sailing — once taking a trip from Noank, Connecticut to Newburyport, Massachusetts.
He was a devoted husband to his wife as they were high school sweethearts that fell in love at first sight when he was 15 years old! They dated for 7 years and were married for almost 62 years. Apart from his love of his wife and family, he loved God and was a man of deep faith and a diligent lifelong student of the Bible. He served as an elder at Prospect Bible Chapel in Hartford for many years and then attended Trinity Covenant Church in Manchester after his retirement. He was part of the leadership team for the Billy Graham Crusade that came to the Hartford Civic Center in 1982 for a one-day event and then again for a week-long event in 1985.
In addition to his wife, he is survived by his two sons Keith Congdon and his wife Deb of New Hampshire, Garth Congdon of Florida, his daughter Susan Mitchell and her husband Doug of South Glastonbury, his six grandchildren Kelsey Fast and her husband Nick, Lindsey Terjanian and her husband Aaron, Erin Congdon, Kaitlyn, Kara, and Colleen Mitchell, his great granddaughter Charlotte Fast, and his two nephews Steve Congdon and his wife Betsy, Mark Congdon and his wife Petra. Victor was predeceased by his brother David Congdon, his sister Eunice (Congdon) Railton and his daughter-in-law Sue Congdon.
A Celebration of Life service will be held on Friday, April 1, 2022, at 2:00 pm at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will be in Green Cemetery. Friends may call on Friday, April 1, 2022, from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Camp Berea at www.berea.org or mailed to 68 Berea Road, Hebron, NH 03241. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

MULRYAN
FUNERAL HOME

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Powell, David S.



David Stephen Powell, of Cheshire, CT and Northfield, MA, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2022 at age 91 after a brave battle against cancer. Dave spent most of his younger years in Northfield, MA, where he had deep family roots going back to D.L. Moody. Dave attended Mt. Hermon prep school outside of Northfield and Yale University. While at Yale, he met the love of his life, Lucia. After graduating, Dave served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, and then began his career at Southern New England Telephone. Dave and Lucia have lived in Cheshire, CT since 1966 and spent as much time as possible at their cottage on Rustic Ridge in Northfield. Dave enthusiastically loved life. He loved his vegetable gardens, which seemed to get bigger and bigger each year, playing tennis and golf with friends and family, working with the Moody Institute to preserve the legacy of D.L. Moody, and later in life cheering on UCONN's women's basketball team. Dave also had a beautiful singing voice, which he was happy to share for any occasion, large or small. He was a member and active alumnus of the Yale Whiffenpoofs, traveled the world with the Yale Alumni Chorus, was a chorus member for various productions of the opera company in New Haven, and sang in numerous church choirs, including at Elim Park where he last resided. One of Dave's highest compliments was that someone was "a do-er," and Dave personified that quality. In Cheshire, his winter "snow table parties" - basically cookouts in the middle of winter -- were enjoyed by friends and family alike, who had no idea drinking sherry and eating a burger in the freezing cold could be so much fun. In Northfield, he was a co-conspirator in gathering the Rustic Ridge community for lobster bakes, pig roasts, two-o'clock tennis, hymn sings, bridge tournaments, family reunions, and general good fun.Dave loved his family, his siblings, Virginia, Ted and Jack, who predeceased him, his nieces and nephews, his own children Tim and John and their spouses, Eve and Heather, and his five grandchildren, Ian, Jibreel, Mackenzie, Henry and Gideon. But no one lit up his smile more than Lucia, his wife of 67 years, to whom he was devoted. Their marriage and love are inspirations to us all. All along the way, Dave's infectious energy, humor, gift of gab and kindness touched everyone he met. No matter your age or station in life, Dave made you feel special.
A Celebration of life will be held at a later date with place and time to be announced.
Kidder Funeral Home, 1 Parker Ave. Northfield, Ma. Is in charge of arrangements. To send condolences please visit www.kidderfuneralhome.com.

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Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

Armstrong, Jacquelyn (Young)



Jacquelyn E. (Young) Armstrong, 91, of East Windsor, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Jackie was born on June 26, 1930, in Hartford, daughter to the late Clifford E. Young and Margaret E. Sampson.
Jackie grew up in Windsor, attended local schools and was a graduate of Windsor High School, Class of 1948. For many years, Jackie worked in the jewelry industry, employed by various shops in the Hartford area, one including Lux, Bond & Green. Jackie also loved to travel with her family and would frequently visit relatives in northern New England, stopping in Kennebunkport, Rockport and Gloucester to name a few. Jackie also had an immense admiration for antiques. She would often shop locally and wherever her travels would take her looking for new items to add to her collections. Jackie also loved to spend time cruising the QVC channel in which she was a major supporter of their sales. Throughout her life, Jackie cared for and looked out for her animals, especially her goats and cats, raising and nurturing them. Most of all, her number one task was to look out for and care for her family and her home.
Jackie is survived by her three children, Margaret Murphy of Mesa, AZ, Karen Nasuta of East Windsor, CT, and Jeffrey Nasuta and his wife Karen of Broad Brook, CT; four grandchildren, Danny Nasuta, Dennis Murphy and his wife Marci, Krista Leamy and her husband Scott and Dale Nasuta and his wife Ashley; four great-grandchildren, Gabrielle, Joelle, Jacqueline and Alexis, as well as a dear friend, Rita Dougas. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her two sons, Daniel and Clifford Nasuta and her two siblings, June Brunner and Wally Young.
A time of visitation for family and friends will be held on Friday, April 1, 2022, from 10-11 a.m. at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. A memorial service will begin at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial with committal prayers will follow in Riverside Cemetery, Windsor. Memorial donations in Jackie's name may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. To leave an online message of condolence for her family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Crocker , Mary W.(Doggart)



Mary W. (Doggart) Crocker, 94, of Glastonbury, formerly of Manchester, died Monday March 28, 2022 at home. Born September 28, 1927 in Manchester, daughter of the late Robert and Jennie (Beebe) Doggart. Prior to her retirement Mary worked as an assembler for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, where she often said she worked a man's job for womans wages". Mary was an active member of the Glastonbury Senior Center where she enjoyed daily lunches with her many friends including June, Georgia, Gladys, Lynn and others at "their table". She also enjoyed many day trips with them. Mary is survived by her 3 daughters and their spouses, Marylou and Michael Draghi of Glastonbury, Kathleen and Frank Napolitano of New Britain, Susan and Stuart Thickman of Indiana and 9grandchildren: Kristen Bollerman, Karen Smith, Kathy and Ken Thickman, Bob Draghi, Sara Moore, Frank, Adam & Vanessa Napolitano. 9 great grandchildren: Rose Bollerman, Keira and Natalia Draghi, Ava and Julia Moore, Luke, Avery, Morgan and Alyssa Napolitano. Mary loved to travel and was one of the first to join the Friendship Force organized by Rosalyn Carter and traveled to : England, Germany, Peru, Japan, Australia and Israel and many other countries. The family would also like to thank her aides Sharon Hamilton and Missi Lee for their devoted help that allowed Mary to stay home these past 4 years. Funeral service will be Friday April 1 at 10am in the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in East Cemetery, Manchester. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Parsonage Fund at Phillips Metropolitan C.M.E. Church, 2500 Main St., Hartford, CT. 06120 Attn: Zachary Mullens. For online condolences please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

MULRYAN
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McCarthy, Jr., William E.



William E. McCarthy, Jr. passed away on Monday, March 28, 2022. Bill was the beloved husband of Karen Zeender McCarthy for the past 58 years. He was the son of William and Marion (Brennan) McCarthy, born on March 21, 1941 in New Haven, CT. Bill was the father of Patricia McCarthy Bova of Farmington, Daniel (Stacie) McCarthy of Wallingford, Kevin (Kerry) McCarthy of Hanover, MA and Megan (Daniel) Gouveia of Pepperell, MA. He is survived by his sister Patricia (McCarthy) Smith and nieces Regina Smith, Kelly (Smith) Dwyer, Maudeen (Battista) Dinan, and nephew Terry Smith. Bill also leaves his beloved grandchildren, Anthony (Heather) Bova, Sierra Bova and partner Jason Michaud, Molly, Anna, Bridget and Brennan McCarthy, Lily and Jackson Gouveia, along with three great grandchildren, Michael, Trevor and Hayden Bova. He was predeceased by his sister Mary Anne Battista and nephew Richard Smith. Bill grew up in New Haven and graduated from Hillhouse High School. He also graduated from the University of New Haven with a B.A. Degree in Marketing. He continued his education graduating with a M.S. Degree in Business Education from Central Connecticut State University. He then earned a 6th year diploma in Administration and Supervision from Southern Connecticut State University. Bill proudly served his country in the U.S. Airforce from August 1959 through August 1963- more notably, the Cuban Missile Crisis. He spent nine years of his professional career as a teacher in Ridgefield High School. He spent the final 22 years as an Administrator in the Milford School retiring in 2001. Bill devoted many years as a baseball coach in Bethany. He also coached Ski Racing at Amity High School for 12 years. In retirement, he and his wife enjoyed cruising. He enjoyed golf and had a passion for skiing with his wife, children, and grandchildren. The Funeral Liturgy will be held Thursday (Mar. 31st) at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary Church, Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial with military honors will be at the State Veterans' Cemetery, Middletown. Friends may call at the St. Mary Church on Thursday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

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OBITUARIES

Camilleri, Sr., Joseph A.

Dr. Joseph A. Camilleri Sr., beloved husband of Elizabeth (Bette) Burak Camilleri passed away on March 28th, 2022. Born in Hartford, CT, he was the son of the late Sarina and Antonio Camilleri. Dr. Camilleri was a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford and Yale Medical School. Following his residency training at Yale New Haven Hospital, he was in the private practice of Urology for 33 years and a member of the voluntary faculty at Yale Medical School. A member of several Medical and Urological Societies, he also served on the boards of American National Bank, now TD Bank, and Sound View Continuing Care Center. In addition to his wife of 64 years he is survived by his sons Dr. Joseph Camilleri Jr. of Hamden and Robert Camilleri of Southbury. He is also survived by his grandchildren Joseph, Anna, Alexandra, and Tyler, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was also predeceased by his daughters-in-law Dr. Martha Brochin and Tammy McVey Camilleri, sister Mary (Dominic) Scalia, and brothers Salvatore (Gloria) Camilleri and Sarino Patrick (Amalia) Camilleri. A mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Rita's Church, 1620 Whitney Ave. Hamden, on Friday April 1st, 2022 at 11:00 AM. There will be no calling hours. Family and friends are requested to go directly to church. He will be laid to rest in the Mausoleum at All Saints Cemetery in North Haven. If friends should desire to make a contribution in memory of Dr. Camilleri, donations may be made to St. Paul VI parish in Hamden, CT. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home 3105 Whitney Ave. in care of arrangements. To leave an online condolence please visit www.siskbrothers.com

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Cruz, Penelope L



Penelope L. Cruz passed peacefully in the arms of her loving parents, Nicholas and Caitlin on March 25, 2022. Penelope was born on December 20, 2021. During her three short months here on Earth, she touched many lives and was loved deeply by family and friends. No imprints are too small.

Her life was a gift to us that will live on in our memories and hearts.

Penelope is the daughter of Nicholas Cruz and Caitlin Garcia, of Hartford, CT. Penelope is survived by two siblings, Sophia and Maelie. Her paternal grandparents are Leyni and Jose and maternal grandparents Mary and Harry. Her aunts and uncle, Tiffany, Chelsey, Ashley, Crystin, Alexis, Cassidy, Alexander and Caylee, as well as, an extended family and friends.

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Drake, Gary Patrick



Gary Patrick Drake, 70, of East Windsor, formerly of Harwinton, passed away peacefully Sunday, March 27th, at home.

Gary was born in Torrington, CT on October 17, 1951, a son of the late Virginia (Watson) and Gordon P. Drake. A graduate of Lewis S. Mills, he was co-owner of Headworks Salon and Day Spa in Glastonbury for 28 years. He was an accomplished artist who also enjoyed traveling, gardening, animals, and bringing out the beauty in his clients. He saw charm in everyone and everything. He always had a smile upon his face that was contagious. He is survived by his sisters, Sharon Weingart and husband Ron, Jennifer Kramp and husband Christopher, brothers Douglas, Kevin and wife Janice Drake and Jimmy. He also leaves his partner Angel Nieves, stepmother Cindy Drake along with several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by brothers Gordon, David, and Cullen Drake. Funeral Services will be held 10 AM on Saturday, April 2nd at Hillside Chapel 76 Walnut St Torrington. Friends may call prior to the service from 9-10 AM. www.phalenfuneral.com

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Fedo, John T.

John T. Fedo, 80, a lifelong resident of Windsor Locks, entered into his eternal rest on March 29, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital. Born on June 20, 1941 in Hartford, John was the son of the late Theodore and Frances (Oldroyd) Fedo. John worked his entire career at Roncari Industries in East Granby prior to retiring over 20 years ago. John was an avid fisherman and hunter and also enjoyed taking leisurely drives in his Mustang listening to his favorite Polish music on the radio. In addition to his parents, John was predeceased by his wife Mary Ann T. Fedo, a son, Kevin Steirer and grandson Andrew Steirer, and his three siblings, Joseph, Jolly, and Joanne. John leaves his daughter-in-law, Robin Steirer, granddaughter Rebecca Roberge and great-granddaughter, Hannah Roberge; and lastly his favorite niece and best friend, Kim Dewey Lopez. John will be truly missed by all who knew him, from friends and family to cousins and nephews; even his two feathered friends, Fleishman and Poncho. His family will receive friends on Friday, April 1, from 12:30-1:30 PM at Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St. with a Funeral Home Service at 1:30 PM. Burial will follow in Grove Cemetery, Windsor Locks. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the CT Audubon Society, 314 Unquowa Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824. For online condolences, please visit www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com.

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Stanton, Thomas C.



Thomas C. Stanton, Was born in 1933, and lived in New Britain until moving to the beautiful seaside community of Hawks Nest Beach Old Lyme in 1986, to a home his father built in the 1940's. Tom was self employed as a ceramic tile setter his whole life and was still doing jobs of some sort even at age 80+. Tom served his country in Germany before returning to New Britain to raise a family. He leaves his brother Mike Stanton and his wife Donna of Berlin, his daughter Brenda Boone of New London and a son Mark Stanton and his wife Robin of New Britain, and grandchildren Madison and Kayla, Justin, Kurt and Abigail, and several Nieces and Nephews. Tom will be thoroughly missed by his many friends and neighbors in the Hawks Nest Beach community. Tom was predeceased by his wife Carol of 56 years, his brother Donald Stanton, a sister Rita Stanton, his daughter Christine Stanton, and his grandson David Stanton.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 15th at 11am at Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home, 13 Beckwith Ln., Old Lyme. A calling hour will be held for one hour prior to the service from 10am-11am at the funeral home.

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Brown, Dennis Wesley

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Dennis Wesley Brown died in Knoxville on March 15, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 69 years Paula Ann Berry Brown, and by son and daughter-in-law Stuart Brown and Janet Bagby of London, UK, son and daughter-in-law Scott and Alyse Brown of Ajijic, Mexico, and daughter and son-in-law Kim and Michael McKee of Knoxville, Tennessee as well as by 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his parents Wesley and Mary Brown, granddaughter Katie Brown, and great-granddaughter Paige Martin. Born April 22, 1931 in Oklahoma City, Dennis moved to Knoxville in 2014 with his wife Paula after living for more than 50 years in Farmington, Connecticut, where they reared their three children. In his career, he worked in television production, city planning, and land development and served in the US Air Force. The Air Force sent him to Boston in 1954, which led to his studying city planning at MIT and their settling in New England. He was a founding partner of Brown, Donald and Donald Planning Services in Farmington. In life, he blessed his family and friends with his faith, wit, creativity, and a sharp ear for the funny stories that made up his narrative and that of our lives with him. He was fun. Family and friends miss him already. No immediate memorial is planned, but the family would appreciate any donations in his memory to the JustLead ministry through the Laurel Church of Christ, where Dennis was, and Paula remains, a member. www.laurelcc.org/justlead. Blessed are they that die in the Lord from henceforth. Aye, says the spirit, they shall have rest from their labors, and their works follow them. Revelation 14:13.

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Blair, Sr., Marvin Anthony



Marvin A. Blair, Sr., beloved husband for 46 years of Violet (Rosetta) Blair, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Marvin was born in Kingston, Jamaica, son of the late Sylvia Joyce Hamilton.

In addition to his wife, Violet, he is survived by his children, Marvin, Blair, Jr. and Schekera Blair; sisters; Hyacinth Grant and Marcia Blair; brothers, Charles Wright and Robert Blair; and his grandchildren, Kyra Tyrman and Destinei Stephenson; along with a host of other relatives and friends to cherish his memory.

His family will receive friends on Friday, April 1, 5-8 p.m., at Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m., at Carmon Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield.

To read the full obituary or leave a condolence for his family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON Community Funeral Homes

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Lanza, Sally (Miller)



Sally (Miller) Lanza, 93, of Southington passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2022 at her home surrounded by her family. She was the beloved wife of the late Raymond Lanza. Born January 13, 1929 in Waterbury, she was the daughter of the late Jack and Mae (Costigan) Miller.

She is survived by her three daughters, Patricia Masi of Glastonbury, Noreen Lanza of Mickleton, NJ and children, Jody and Justin, and Meg Ackerly and husband Mark of Hollis, NH and children, Jill, Erin, and Thomas. She also leaves a sister, Jacqueline Wheeler, of FL and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son Kenneth Jay Lanza.

A graduate of Waterbury High School and the University of Connecticut, Sally was a local nursery school instructor and a physical education teacher for many years in the Southington school system. Together she and her husband operated Thimbleberry Swim Club where she taught many children to swim. She will be remembered for her love of family, gardening, and horses.

The funeral will be held on Friday, April 1st at 10 a.m. at St. Dominic Church, 1050 Flanders Rd, Southington. The funeral procession will begin at 9:15 a.m. at the DellaVecchia Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Southington. Burial will be private at Middlebury Cemetery, Middlebury. Calling hours will be Thursday from 3-6 p.m. For online condolences and directions please visit, www.dellavecchiasouthington.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Wilkos, Jr., Gary D.



Gary Dennis Wilkos, Jr., 54, of East Hartford, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Hartford on March 21, 1968 a son of Susan J. (Grimm) Wilkos of East Hartford and the late Gary Dennis Wilkos, Sr., he had been a life-long resident of the East Hartford area.

Gary was a graduate of East Hartford High School, class of 1986 and was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army during Operation Ernest Will and the Panama Invasion. He worked for several years as an operator of a successful area landscaping company. Gary enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson Motorcycle any chance that he had; playing golf; gardening; and loving animals, especially his former dog Roxie. He was an avid fan of the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Rams, and was an overall sports enthusiast.

A loving step-father and son Gary will be dearly missed by his children: Nicholas Aconfora and his wife Lauren, Mitchell Aconfora, and Gianna Aconfora. He is also survived by his mother Susan and her husband David N. Case of East Hartford; two brothers, Shane C. Wilkos and his wife Kim of Ellington, Justin B. Wilkos and his fiancée Mattie of Bangor, Maine; three nieces, Ashley Wilkos, Alyssa Wilkos, and Peyton Wilkos; three nephews, Shane Wilkos, Jr., Cody Wilkos, and Justin Wilkos, Jr.; several cousins, aunts, uncles, and dear friends. In addition to his father, Gary was predeceased by his brother Dennis J. Wilkos of Hartford.

Funeral Service will be Friday (April 1, 2022) at 11 am at the New Covenant United Methodist Church, 16 Church Street, East Hartford. Burial with military honors will follow at Veteran's Memorial Field- Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. (Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church on Friday morning). Relatives and friends may call at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford on Thursday (March 31, 2022) from 2:30 – 5:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations in Gary's memory may be made to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main Street, Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118. To share a memory of Gary with his family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.

D'Esopo Funeral Chapel

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Aseltine, Lynn (Derby)



Lynn (Derby) Aseltine, 65, of Rocky Hill, the most kind, caring, generous women, and beloved wife for 42 years of Christopher Aseltine, passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side after a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Hartford on July 12, 1956, she was the daughter of the late George and Lorraine (LaPorte) Derby. Lynn grew up in Newington and was a 1975 graduate of Newington High School. She enjoyed doing crafts, spending time with her constant companion Tabor, riding her Vespa scooter, boating every weekend, and spending time in Vermont.

A loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Lynn will be forever missed by her husband Chris; three children, Timothy J. Aseltine and Jameson A. Aseltine, both of Rocky Hill and Nicole L. Charette and husband David of Granby and her adored grandson, Joseph Masella. She is also survived by her sister, Gayle Derby of Kingston, Ontario and a host of extended family and friends, as well as her cherished "four-legged child," Tabor, who was always by her side. In addition to her parents, Lynn was sadly predeceased by her beloved granddaughter, Makayla Aseltine. Special thanks to the friends and family who spent time by her side over these difficult months.

Family and friends may call on Friday, April 1 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 2 at 11 a.m. at the funeral chapel. Donations in Lynn's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To share a memory of Lynn with her family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.

D'Esopo Funeral Chapel

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Lagosz, Walter J.



Walter J. Lagosz, 79, of Southington, passed away on March 14,2022 surrounded by his family. He was born in New Britain, on September 22, 1942 to the late Walter and Bronislawa (Gnyla) Lagosz. Walter graduated from St. John Kanty Prep School in Erie, PA in 1960 and attended Central Connecticut State University. He retired from F.W. Webb after many years in the gas related products field. Walter is survived by his devoted wife of 51 years, Gloria (Nicolini) Lagosz, his daughter Marlo Kathryn Lagosz (Bryson Burse), his cherished granddaughter Adalynn Kathryn Burse, his sister Christine Laskowski, his sister-in-law Donna Sgro, brother-in-law Marc Nicolini, and nieces Jenifer Chmura McDavid and Kiana McDavid. Special to him were Linda and Dina Rudnick, Brody Burse and Tyler Caron. He was predeceased by his brother-in-law, Nicholas Sgro. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, April 1st at 11:00 a.m. at St. Ann Church, 47 Clark St., New Britain. He will be lovingly laid to rest privately at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111 or to a local animal shelter of the donor's choice. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, is assisting Walter's family. To share a memory with Walter's family, please visit us at www.duksa.net.

DUKSA

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Myers, George W.



George W. Myers 74 of Wethersfield, CT went to his eternal home on March 22, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. George graduated from Weaver High School class of 1966. He served as a Navy Veteran during the Vietnam War. George retired from the City of Hartford Board of Education in 2013. He was predeceased by his parents Marrion and Emma (Hughes) Myers. He is also survived by his faithful and beloved wife Annie (Jackson) Myers; four sons Jermond, Wesley (Kenya), Troy, Brandon (Deidra). Two brothers Steven and Derrick Myers. Two sisters Sharon Scott, Irene Baisden (Prather).

A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, April 1 2022 at Latter Rain Christian Fellowship C.O.G.I.C. 3200 Main St, Hartford CT at 10 am. ALL FAITH MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 90 JOHN FITCH BLVD. SO. WINDSOR, CT has charge of arrangements.

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Morse, Janice E.



Janice E. Morse (Rich), 79, of Plainville, beloved wife of Lawrence E. Morse, passed away unexpectedly at home on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. She was predeceased by her parents, Dorothy and Russell Rich. In addition to her husband of 60 years, Lawrence, she leaves behind her daughter, Pamela, son-in-law, Michael, and granddaughters, Dena and Mya Branciforte. She is also survived by her sisters, Marlene Hall and Carolann Bennett. We will remember her for her quick wit, and subtle and sometimes sarcastic sense of humor. She was an avid reader, lover of all animals, an enthusiastic Dale Earnhardt fan, and followed UCONN Girls Basketball faithfully. Although our "goodbyes" started years ago when dementia took over, there are still many moments that are now memories we will cherish. Janice loved to take long rides and listen to her oldies music; Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory was one of her favorite places to visit. She thrived when she was on the go meeting different people and new places. We are fortunate that she was able to remain in the comfort of her own home. We want to thank the staff of the Mulberry Gardens Day Center past and present. Their love and support of Mom was appreciated. She had many good days in their care. We also want to thank her wonderful neighbors that helped whenever we needed it most. There will be no calling hours. Burial will be private. If you wish to honor Jan's passing, please consider a donation to the following in her honor: www.alz.org and Connecticut Humane Society http://www.cthumane.org. To leave online condolences
please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com .

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OBITUARIES

Bogdan, Jeffrey



Jeffrey Christopher Bogdan, age 28, passed away Friday evening, March 25, 2022. He was a simple man who loved adventures. He loved going on long bike rides on his red Harley, and he was such a proud Uncle. He was honored to be a member of IBEW Local 42 Union. He was passionate about his career as a Welder. Jeffrey is survived by his father, Christopher John Bogdan, his mother, Candi Newton Matuszak. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his siblings, Elizabeth Lorraine Bogdan and her children, Anthony Alexzander Jefferson Brown, Lilliana Raine Chambers, Raelynne Nova Clarke, and Morgaine "Drake" Matuszak, his step-father, Richard Matuszak, his beloved fiancée, Brandy Hill, his great-grandfather, Donald Butterfield, godparents, Shayne Mierez and Jason Douglas, god brother, Alex Opuszynski, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and coworkers.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to East Hartford Parks & Rec.

Calling Hours will be held from 12 noon-2:00 pm on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main Street, Manchester, CT. To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Haltner, Jean (Steiner)



Jean (Steiner) Haltner, 90, of Newington, widow of Robert W. Haltner, passed away Sunday (March 27, 2022) at her home. Born in Meriden and a graduate of Meriden High School, Class of 1950, Jean was employed at Northeast Utilities in Berlin as an Account Payable Clerk for 18 years. Jean and Robert lived in the family farm house where Robert was born. Later, the family gifted 10 acres of land to the Town of Newington for the enjoyment of Newington residents called The Haltner Family Farm Preserve. In her younger years, Jean was a member of the Fife & Drum and enjoyed dancing at the Polish Club. In their later years, Jean and Robert enjoyed bowling and traveling.

Surviving are several nieces and nephews. Besides her husband Robert, she was predeceased by a sister, June Martindale.

Funeral services will be held Thursday 10 AM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. Private burial will be in West Meadow Cemetery, Newington. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jean's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook Street, I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or to The Hospital of Central CT, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06051. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

CARLSON FUNERAL HOME

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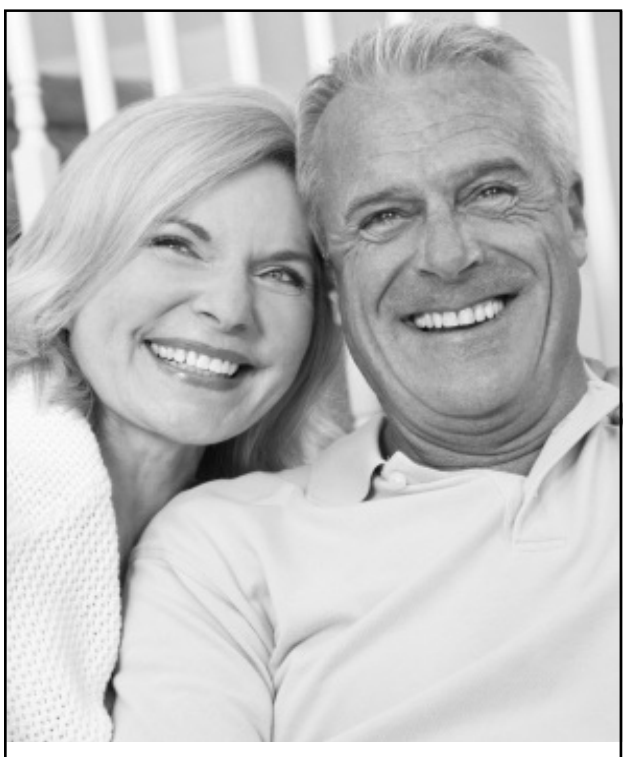
IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
MYRNA E. CHISHOLM



11/28/1943 3/30/2021

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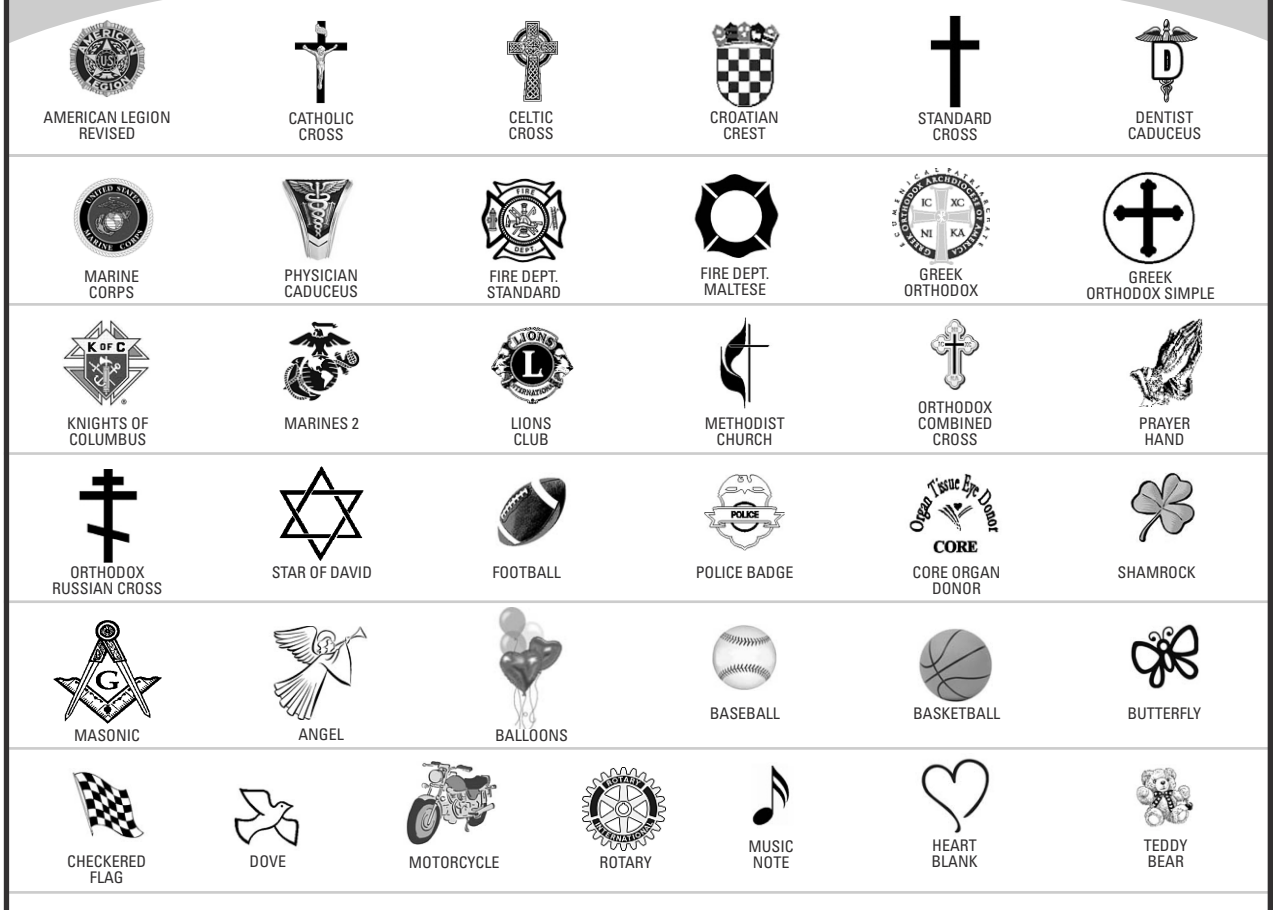
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Dozens of projects to split $150M in aid

West Hartford school tennis courts, Bloomfield libraries among targets for expected state grants

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

The state is poised to approve more than $150 million for dozens of Connecticut communities, helping Bloomfield to build a new library, Hartford to improve Pope Park and West Hartford to replace high school tennis courts.

The Bond Commission on Thursday is expected to authorize grants that will aid Glastonbury, Rocky Hill, East Hartford, Vernon, New Britain, Manchester, Wethersfield, Middletown, Mansfield, East Windsor, Hebron, Portland, East Haddam, along with others.

In cases like Bloomfield, the grants will be just a supplement to local tax dollars. But in West Hartford and some other communities, the aid will pay for an entire project.

West Hartford is on track to get $3 million, the estimated cost of refurbishing all 24 tennis courts at its two high schools.

"The tennis courts at both Conard and Hall high schools are in rough shape and the time to replace them has finally arrived," state Sen. Derek Slap said after Gov. Ned Lamont announced the state's funding plan. "We all know how important recreation is for the physical and mental health of adolescents and adults."

Mayor Shari Cantor on Tuesday noted that the project potentially benefits everyone in town, since the courts are open to residents when they're not in use by the schools.

"They're a huge community asset and they're decades old - they're in desperate need of repair," she said. "The students will directly benefit, but it helps everyone. This is important to the well-being of our entire community."

The state is also planning to put $1 million toward the cost of modernizing Bloomfield's library system. By a 2,716 to 549 vote in November, Bloomfield residents approved spending up to $29.1 million to replace the Prosser Public Library in the town center and expand the McMahon Wintonbury Library near the Windsor line.

The library staff has said the projects will create more floor room with an emphasis on separate children's areas and teen spaces.

The plan is to add study spaces, additional parking and community meeting areas too. The buildings will also be more energy-efficient and accessible, according to the library.

Turn to Grants, Page 2



Windham High School freshman treasurer Miguel Garcia gestures toward a screen displaying a proposal for Dawg Pound spirit wear during a conference at the school where students pitched ideas for how to use federal relief funding. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

How to spend federal school COVID-19 aid?

High school students pitch their ideas

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Tuesday was Election Day at Windham High School — not for open senate seats, but for a handful of proposals that would direct a portion of the state's federal coronavirus relief dollars to projects designed, and voted on, by students.

Windham is one of 54 high schools that participated in what the state Department of Education calls Voice4Change, a first-time program that gives students the chance to have a say in how their schools use $1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funding.

The department approved 150 of the more than 200 proposals submitted by high schools since the initiative was launched in November. Winning projects will receive $20,000 to carry out the design.

"I always like to say 'Nothing about them, without them,' " Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker told Windham students Tuesday. "Everything we do in education is about you, so why not have your voice in that space?"

As students voted, Windham class representatives pitched their plans to state leaders including Tucker, Gov. Ned Lamont, and local state representatives.

Sophomores proposed a project that would "revamp" the outdoor courtyard with a furnished and weatherized pavilion, giving students a place to relax and recharge between classes.

Another group proposed to build a greenhouse to give students a chance to learn agricultural skills, taking inspiration from a quote attributed to Audrey Hepburn: "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

"We think it's important for students to have a learning outlet for how they can take care of their environment," Andrea Quinones, a senior at Windham, said.

Seniors Resia Baran, class president, and Geraldine Gonzalez, class secretary, pitched leaders on "Inclusion Solution," an annual fair to showcase and celebrate Windham's diversity replete with food, music and games.

"We pride ourselves in being a close-knit community ... We want to recognize the people in our community that make the town of Windham unique," Baran said.

All groups were tasked with consulting with industry experts to create a project budget and draw up a full design plan.

"I love these ideas because they're positive, they're optimistic, and they're forward looking," Lamont said. "[They're] about the

Turn to Schools, Page 2

Fuel tax holiday may hurt stations

Big bill could result from oversight by state officials

By Keith M. Phaneuf
CT Mirror

When the coronavirus struck Connecticut in March 2020, Eddie Jamal had opened his second gas station in Bridgeport only a few weeks earlier. He tried to hold on as closures and curfews slowed his business to a crawl.

Looking forward to a reinvigorated economy this spring, Jamal watched skyrocketing crude oil prices toss another wrench in the works.

Now as motorists prepare for a state gas tax holiday, he and hundreds of other station owners could lose hundreds or even thousands of dollars — or be forced to shut down their pumps for a day or two — because of an oversight by state officials.

The glitch is expected to hit this week, as gas stations fill their own tanks with fuel at a price that includes the 25-cents-per-gallon retail tax. But when that tax is suspended on Friday, many stations will be selling the same fuel at 25 cents less per gallon than they paid for it.

Many station owners and fuel distributors also fear vague statutes defining price-gouging could open them to many complaints in the coming weeks.

"It's a rollercoaster. I've never seen it like this," said Jamal.

And while the pandemic dealt the heaviest blow to gas stations and convenience stores, how the state is operating the holiday — and not the tax break itself — "is going to be the No. 1 thing that weeds out the little guys," Jamal added.

Gov. Ned Lamont and the General Assembly agreed last week to waive Connecticut's retail gasoline tax, 25 cents per

Turn to Gas, Page 2

Blumenthal rips top utilities for bill demands in pandemic

Senator says he backs investigation into Eversource, Avangrid

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal blasted Connecticut's two largest utilities — Eversource and Avangrid — for their alleged payment demands and wage garnishments against consumers during the pandemic.

In a letter to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, Blumenthal said he supported the agency's investigation into the matter. Blumenthal noted many households were unable to pay their utility bills even before the pandemic.

"The pandemic — with families advised to stay home in order to protect themselves and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and unemployment soaring to record levels — increased this economic stress," Blumenthal wrote. "It is therefore highly inexcusable for utility companies to aggressively pursue residents who were already have trouble meeting their financial obligations."



Eversource and Avangrid, the state's two largest utilities, are under scrutiny for customer payment demands during the pandemic. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Earlier this month, the authority launched an investigation into the matter at the request of the

Turn to Utilities, Page 2

Troconis must keep wearing GPS monitor

Defense receives sought-after evidence in Dulos disappearance

By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

A judge ruled Tuesday that Michelle Troconis, who faces serious charges in the disappearance of her ex-boyfriend's wife Jennifer Dulos, will continue to wear a GPS monitor on her ankle so that the court can keep tabs on her whereabouts.

Her defense attorney, Jon Schoenhorn said during a remote hearing Tuesday that prosecutors recently turned over "thousands of pages of evidence" that he had been asking for months. The evidence, which he had not yet had time to review, appeared to contain extensive forensic evidence connected to the case, he said.

Troconis, who is living in Florida, appeared in court via video chat Tuesday wearing a white button up blouse and dark-rimmed glasses. Superior Court Judge Gary J. White had to repeatedly ask her to turn on her camera during the hearing.

Troconis is charged with conspiring to commit murder and tampering with evidence — state police allege she plotted with her former boyfriend, Fotis Dulos, to kill his wife and later tried to help him avoid arrest by concealing evidence. Troconis has pleaded not guilty to all charges and insists she had nothing to do with the killing or cover-up.

Schoenhorn asked White, who presided over the hearing, to change the conditions of her release and allow her to remove the GPS monitor she has been wearing since June 2019.

Schoenhorn argued that wearing the monitor for that long

Turn to Troconis, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Two arrests in gang-related shooting in Middletown that hurt unintended target

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Two men were arrested in what police said was a gang-related shooting in Middletown that wounded a driver instead of the intended target — her passenger.

Damajh Privott, 22, of Middletown and Marion Nesmith-Ortiz, 18, of Meriden face assault and gun charges after the shooting last year, which injured a 23-year-old woman.

According to police, the shooting happened Nov. 3 on Washington Street near its intersection with Melilli Plaza. The woman was behind the wheel when a dark sedan pulled up alongside her vehicle. A front-seat passenger of the other car reached out the window and fired into her car, hitting her in the leg and back. She survived.

Police said they learned that her boyfriend, Zahrod Jackson, who was in the front passenger seat, was the intended target. He was arrested in January on weapons charges because he had a gun with him the day of the shooting, according to police.

Privott and Nesmith-Ortiz became suspects during what police described as an extensive investigation involving Middletown and Meriden detectives.

Privott, 22, of Middletown, was arrested March 17 and charged with first-degree assault, conspiracy to commit first-degree assault, commission of a Class A, B or C felony with a firearm and possession of a weapon in motor vehicle. He was in custody on $1.1 million bail at the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution in Suffield Tuesday, prison records show.

Nesmith-Ortiz, 18, of Meriden was arrested March 25 and charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree assault, commission of an A, B or C felony with a firearm, weapon in a vehicle and aiding in the commission of first-degree assault, police said.

He was in custody on $975,000 bail at the Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire, correction records show.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

ROCKY HILL

Firefighters rescue unconscious woman in smoky apartment

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Firefighters rescued an unconscious woman from a smoky apartment Tuesday morning in Rocky Hill, fire officials said.

Crews were called shortly before 5 a.m. to 963 Elms Common Drive. Firefighters found smoke in a common hallway on the fourth floor and traced it to her apartment, they said.

Firefighters forced open the door and found an unconscious 68-year-old resident in the bathroom, Fire Chief Michael P. Garrahy said. They removed her, provided medical aid and she was taken to the hospital.

The woman regained consciousness at the scene and was able to talk, Garrahy said. She is expected to recover.

Firefighters found food that was left cooking on the stove and ventilated the apartment to remove the smoke, he said.

"She was cooking, and we surmise she had a medical issue," Garrahy said. Smoke detectors sounded, triggering the fire department's response.

There is no fire damage in the apartment, the chief said.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Gas

from Page 1

gallon, from April 1 to June 30, hoping to save motorists $90 million over those three months.

Gas station owners say they have no problem with that.

But these stations pay taxes as soon as they purchase the fuel, meaning they aren't made whole until they re-sell the gas to customers and collect 25 cents per gallon from them.

Further complicating matters, stations replenish their tanks every three to five days, depending on customer demand.

If a station gets its tanks refilled on March 30 or 31, it would pay the 25-cent tax on 8,000 to 8,500 gallons of gas. But whatever it hasn't sold by April 1 — once the holiday starts — must be sold tax-free.

State officials have said gas stations have plenty of time to manage their inventory. Couldn't they arrange to run out at the close of business March 31, and then buy a new shipment — tax-free — at sunrise on April 1?

"Brilliant decision," quipped Michael Fox, executive director of the Connecticut-based Gasoline & Automotive Service Dealers of America, commonly known as GASDA. "One thousand gas stations are going to order gas deliveries for April 1? Do you really think they're all going to get it?"

Fox said he believes as many as half of all stations would be unable to secure timely fuel under that scenario.

Most of Connecticut's roughly 1,000 gas stations get their fuel from wholesale trading sites in New Haven, Hartford and Rocky Hill. The gas is delivered by fuel distributors, who agree with Fox: The chances of everybody getting accommodated on April 1 are zilch, said Chris Herb, president of the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association.

Jamal said he must give his fuel distributor a minimum of one-and-a-half days' notice, and it still normally takes 2-3 days to get a new shipment.

Stations that try to manage their supply and run out one or two days before or after April 1 face the dangerous proposition of closing their pumps for a while.

Jamal said supply problems during the worst of the pandemic forced that on his two stations. Both stations also feature convenience stores and are located in Bridgeport, where there's plenty of competition.

If customers can't get fuel, they likely aren't stopping into the store to buy soda or cigarettes either. "They just drive across the street to the next location," Jamal said.

A more likely scenario, Fox said, is that most station owners will stay on their regular schedules of buying fuel every three days or so. That means almost everyone will pay taxes on fuel bought wholesale between March 29-31 and then absorb the loss.

State officials responded sympathetically late last week to the gas station owners' fears but made no promises.

"We're talking to them and trying to learn more," said Rep. Sean Scanlon, D-Guilford, co-chairman of the legislature's tax-writing Finance Committee.

"Most service station owners are small business people. They live in our communities and they're facing serious headwinds," said Attorney General William Tong, whose office could have to act if any stations, fuel distributors or oil companies face complaints of price-gouging during the holiday.

But Tong noted many businesses, such as restaurants, had to close and make other sacrifices to protect public health during the worst days of the pandemic. Lawmakers and the governor chose to act quickly because surging fuel prices also represent a crisis.

Gas station owners "may feel like they're in a no-win situation, between a rock and a hard place," Tong added. "It's not a burden that isn't shared by many other businesses and consumers. It's shared by everybody."

The AAA Northeast reported Friday an average price of $4.32 per gallon for regular gasoline in Connecticut, down from a peak of $4.49 on March 11, but still well above the $3.71 reported one month ago.

Fox noted that a station with roughly two-thirds of a late March shipment still in the tanks on April 1 would have paid about $1,500 in state taxes that it couldn't recoup — a hefty burden for an industry dominated by small businesses.

But won't gas stations get some benefit this summer, buying tax-free gasoline on June 29 or 30 and then selling it with tax added on July 1, when the holiday ends?

Fox said there's no guarantee that stations that lost out in the spring will be made whole in the summer. Stations typically pay $50,000 to $60,000 for each load of gasoline. Most don't have the financial flexibility to stock up with a double-load in late June, to be sure they break even.

But there's another option Fox said.

The state could simply require stations to report how much fuel they bought — both with and without the tax added — in late March and late June, respectively.

Those gas stations that lost funds could be reimbursed by the state, and those that gained money could be asked to remit the difference to Connecticut.

If this safeguard were in place, he added, no station would have to absorb a tax loss, or consider shutting down its pumps for a few days, which also adds up to lost business revenue.

Fox noted that even if the state had to reimburse 1,000 gasoline stations $1,500 each in tax payments, that would cost the government $1.5 million.

That would add less than 2% to the cost of the fuel tax holiday.

More importantly, Fox noted, the $1.5 million amounts to a rounding error, considering the budget surpluses that made the fuel tax holiday easy for the state to accommodate.

The General and Special Transportation funds combined are on pace to close this fiscal year with more than $3.1 billion in black ink. Set against that, $1.5 million is 1/20th of 1% of the state's bounty.

Fox added that the uncertainty over financial loss that stations face is compounded by a growing fear that many could be subjected to price-gouging complaints during the holiday.

State law empowers the attorney general to investigate complaints received during an "abnormal market disruption" such as the price spikes in recent weeks leading up to and following the Russian invasion of the Ukraine.

Whenever the wholesale price of fuel exceeds $3 per gallon and the daily price change exceeds 15% when compared with any of the prior 90 days, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection can declare a disruption, as it did on March 7.

Tong said the advantage of this statute is that it permits his office to respond to any complaint of price gouging against any seller of gasoline, whether that's at the retail or wholesale level.

But while the statute also says no one shall sell fuel at an "unconscionably excessive price," it does not define that term.

"It's a huge problem," Herb said. "The law should at least provide some guidance. You are now exposing local, family businesses to being prosecuted when they don't even know if they've done something wrong."

The industry has long argued for specific parameters, but Herb said the tremendous discretion that the government has is particularly dangerous during a fuel-tax-holiday offered amidst an election year.

"It provides law enforcement with a blank check to go after whoever they want whenever they want," he said.

Grants

from Page 1

Drawings presented last month by TSKP Studio, the architectural firm handling the projects, also show small cafes at each building.

Glastonbury is in line for $2 million to help with preserving open space. The town has committed more than $30 million toward buying conservation land, much of it former farmland.

In 2020, voters approved replenishing the community's open space acquisition fund, which had been depleted. Glastonbury's state legislative delegation put out announcements this week praising Lamont for authorizing the aid.

"It's reassuring to know even more of Glastonbury's open spaces will be preserved and protected for us all to enjoy in years to come," Sen. Steve Cassano said.

Hartford's Pope Park is scheduled to get a share of $7.5 million for Hartford's neighborhood and streetscape improvements. The city plan to add lighting, new splashpads, improved landscaping and traffic safety improvements.

Among the other communities scheduled to receive aid:

Vernon $2.5 million to restore the Fox Hill Memorial Tower; Portland $500,000 towards replacing the Portland Secondary School track; Wethersfield $3 million toward improving townwide street lighting, public parking and the library; Mansfield $834,000 to modernize town hall; East Hartford $556,000 to expand Intercommunity Healthcare;

Also Hartford $3 million to expand the Blue Hills Civic Association facility; Hartford $750,000 to complete the GreenWalk at Bushnell Gardens; Middletown $2 million toward the redevelopment of 545 Main St.; New Britain $1.08 million toward energy efficiency work at the New Britain-Berlin YMCA; Manchester $500,000 for improvements at Laurel Marsh Park;

Also East Windsor $800,000 for parks improvements; East Haddam $1.4 million for a new athletic complex; Rocky Hill $500,000 to modernize the Old Forge Road Bridge; New Britain $500,000 for its Main Street Connection program; Middletown $500,000 to study a connector between the Air Line Trail and the Farmington Canal Trail; Hebron $2 million for a backup electric generator for RHAM High School.

Utilities

from Page 1

state Office of Consumer Counsel. The consumer counsel stated the utilities' efforts, which included suing customers to recover money, violate regulators' intent to help low-income customers during the public health crisis.

In March, 2020, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong requested the authority to establish a moratorium on electricity and gas shutoffs for nonpayment. State public health orders shut many businesses, leaving hundreds of thousands of utility customers unemployed and in financial distress.

Avangrid, the parent company of United Illuminating, Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas, reported obtaining 263 judgments against customers in 2020 and 2021 and 80 wage garnishments, the Office of Consumer Counsel said.

Eversource, which includes Connecticut Light & Power and Yankee Gas, reported obtaining 44 judgments and 13 wage garnishments in the two years.

Avangrid spokesman Gage Frank again asserted the utility was one of the first in the region to suspend shut-offs for nonpayment of bills at the start of the pandemic.

"From the commencement of the COVID pandemic, we have worked with our most vulnerable customers offering various payment plans to assist them during this time," Frank said. "However, not all customers took advantage of these plans and continued to accumulate unpaid balances."

Avangrid did not file any claims for collections against customers during this time, Frank said. The judgments obtained were for claims prior to the pandemic that continued through the courts after they reopened, Frank said.

Eversource spokeswoman Tricia T. Modifica was more blunt: "Senator Blumenthal does not have the facts straight — Eversource has not pursued judgments and/or wage garnishments during COVID."

Modifica said Eversource voluntarily stopped all collection activities on March 13, 2020 — including efforts to seek new judgments for historically owed balances.

"Judgments and wage garnishments are always a last resort when we're working with customers on overdue balances," Modifica said. "We continue to proactively guide customers to the very best programs, protections and energy assistance available to them to get relief for and resolve their past due balances."

In his letter, Blumenthal noted the utilities did not terminate service but "they proceeded to ignore the economic fallout of the pandemic and drag consumers into court to force them to pay their bills."

Blumenthal said the push came as Eversource earned more than $1.2 billion in profits, and Avangrid more than $707 million. Each paid their top executives millions in compensation.

Courant Staff Writer Stephen Singer contributed to this story. Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Schools

from Page 1

outdoors, [they're] about respect for each other and for your communities."

Early voting began Monday at Windham and at dozens of schools across Connecticut. The winning project for each school will be announced in early April.

The program also sets aside funding for five Commissioner's Choice Awards, which the state Department of Education will award to projects of merit that didn't win the student vote.

Following federal guidance, Connecticut students were asked to design projects that pertained to state-level priorities as the country looks to recover from learning loss and the social and emotional toll of the pandemic.

Officials view Voice-4Change benefits as twofold: students are given the agency to ask for the change they view is needed most, and the state can be sure the projects will make a difference. It's the first initiative of its kind both in Connecticut and in the country, Lamont has said.

"I'm so happy that Connecticut, under the governor's leadership, determined that with all the federal funding we were getting in the state, that this was an opportunity for students ... to tell us how you're choosing to spend some of our recovery funding," she continued.

More than 70% of the 150 proposals were targeted toward addressing social, emotional and mental health for students and staff — more than any other category.

"You're telling us and reinforcing what we already know to be true: that you're looking for that level of support," Russell-Tucker said.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Troconis

from Page 1

"constitutes a punishment" and said that Troconis has never violated the terms of her release. He also noted that when she travels, which she does often, the device is not connected to track her movements.

White told Schoenhorn that he was misinterpreting the purpose of the monitor.

"You're mischaracterizing the pretrial regulations as punishment, they're not intended to punish," he said, noting that Troconis' life has not been significantly impacted by the terms of her release.

"She's doing all sorts of things and her life isn't being impeded," he said. "But the court has an interest, and the state has an interest, in knowing where she is at any particular time."

Assistant State's Attorney Michelle Manning said she strongly objected to Schoenhorn's request that the monitor be removed, emphasizing the seriousness of the charges Troconis faces.

White denied the motion, ordering her to continue wearing the monitor.

Schoenhorn also requested that cellphones and computers belonging to Troconis and her family that were seized by investigators in May 2019 be returned. He said there were expensive electronic items, like iPhones and her daughter's laptop, that were still being held by investigators.

He argued that some of those devices, such as the sticker-covered laptop, had "no evidentiary value" or had already had any data containing evidence removed from them.

"For almost two years now we've been asking for my clients' electronics, her daughter's computer," he said.

"Here we are almost two years later and they still have her phone, her computers, her 12-year-old daughter's laptop that had all her school work on it," he said. He asked for an agreement for the items to be returned by April 4.

Manning said that there were more than 40 items containing digital evidence that were seized in connection with this case and that she was waiting for documented proof that the specific items Schoenhorn was requesting were the rightful property of Troconis and not devices that belonged to Fotis Dulos.

Fotis Dulos was charged with murder in January 2020, but died a month later in a hospital in New York City after he tried to take his own life by carbon monoxide poisoning in the garage of the Farmington home he shared with Troconis.

Jennifer Farber Dulos disappeared in May 2019 and is presumed dead. Based on blood stained car seats and other evidence, state police detectives suspect that Dulos may have cut the body of his estranged wife — the mother of his five children — into pieces that have never been found.

In the affidavits for her arrest, state police detectives accuse Troconis of conspiring with Dulos to murder his wife and later trying to help him avoid arrest by concealing evidence.

Troconis is scheduled to appear in court next on June 7 for another remote hearing, according to court records.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford to hold 'Open Streets' Sundays

Stretches will close to traffic on some days to promote community

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Hartford will celebrate "Open Streets" by closing off streets on four Sundays in the summer. The streets in the city will be blocked off to vehicular traffic for three- to five-mile stretches to encourage people to walk, run, bike, roller-skate, dance, exercise and enjoy cultural events, Mayor Luke Bronin announced.

The initiative, which the city is launching in collaboration with Hartford HealthCare and community leaders, is modeled on an "Open Streets" trend in dozens of cities in the United States and Canada, which is geared toward encouraging community interaction in urban spaces.

The Rev. Dr. Shelley D. Best, founder of Hartford's 224 EcoSpace and incoming CEO of Greater Hartford Arts Council, said this kind of interaction is important as the community emerges from the pandemic.

"We need to come together as community to fellowship one with another to get to know people and to rub elbows again. We've all gone through so much," Best said.

The family-oriented program will be called "DominGO!" after the Spanish word for Sunday. Dates will be June 26, July 24, Aug. 28 and Sept. 25, all from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. On June 26 the blocked-off roads will be parts of Farmington Avenue and Park Street. On July 24, the blocked-off roads will be parts of North Main Street. The routes for Aug. 28 and Sept. 25 are not yet set.

Shops on blocked-off roads can bring their business outdoors and entertainment will be offered.

"DominGO will draw energy and attention to our distinctive neighborhood corridors, restaurants and cafes, and help people explore a part of the city that they might not have experienced before," Bronin said.

Jackie Mckinney, chair of the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association, said the June 26 Farmington Avenue event will feature an art exhibit, food, kids' activities, music, opportunities to meet first responders and other activities. Seating will be placed around the street.

Four open houses are being held around the city to ask community members what offerings they want to see on those days. The open houses will be:

- April 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Thomas Hooker Live, 1 Sequassen St.
- April 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Parkville Market, 1400 Park St.
- May 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. at EcoSpace, 226 Farmington Ave.
- May 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Vibz Uptown, 3155 Main St.

A website, openstreets.org, said the Open Streets programs enhance health and well-being among city dwellers. "Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people by bringing citizens together to enhance mobility and public space so that together we can create more vibrant, healthy, and equitable communities," the website states.

Visit domingohartford.com and @domingohtfd on Instagram.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

K9 Nova, award-winning Enfield police dog, dies

German shepherd twice was named state's dog tracker of year

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant



An Enfield K9 Officer, Nova, died over the weekend, police say. **COURTESY**

Award-winning Enfield police dog, K9 Nova, died over the weekend, police said.

"It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our K9 Nova, who succumbed to an untreatable medical condition after a fierce fight with the illness," police said in social media posts Saturday night. "K9 Nova was an amazing coworker and friend to our officers and a hero to many of our citizens."

Police had posted earlier in the day that the German shepherd "didn't appear to [be] acting himself during his day shift." The dog was sick to his stomach, lethargic and unable to stand, police wrote. He was rushed to Bolton Veterinary Hospital.

Nova won the Connecticut Police Work Dog Tracker of the Year in 2017 and 2020 for following the scents of people officers were trying to find. He often responded to towns outside of Enfield to do such tracks.

"From countless successful tracks, to winning Connecticut Police Work Dog Tracker of the Year in 2017 & 2020, he was an asset to not only Enfield, but the entire region. We will greatly miss his work ethic and Chewbacca noises as he was always ready to complete the mission," police said in the post announcing his death. "Rest easy K9 Nova, we will hold it down from here."

In addition to tracking suspects and missing people, Nova was certified in evidence recovery and narcotics detection, according to Enfield's website. The site lists three other police dogs in town.

More than 500 people posted messages of condolences on the police department's web page, a few using words like "amazing" and saying Nova was the best K9 officer around.

"He was the BEST!! So smart and an amazing Officer," one post said. "He always got the job done and went above and beyond to get it done. My heart is sad."

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

South Windsor officials form new party

United Community registered in effort to break from divisiveness

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant



Founders of the newly formed United Community Party outside South Windsor town hall Tuesday. **COURTESY**

SOUTH WINDSOR — Promising to break free of what they describe as divisive and increasingly nasty local politics, current and former South Windsor town council and school board members have launched a new party.

The United Community Party has been registered with the Secretary of the State, and the former Republican and Democratic founders filed the party's bylaws with local voter registrars Tuesday, core member Art Adduci said.

"We are not anti-Republican or anti-Democrat; we are just pro-South Windsor," the former Republican and current board of education member said.

Other founders are town council members Marek Kozikowski and Phil Koboski, both former Republicans; former Democrat and current school board Vice-Chairwoman Jessica Waterhouse; and Janice Snyder, who served as a Republican member of both the council and board of education.

"The divisive tactics of national politics have seeped their way into South Windsor and put a grinding halt to collaboration and progress within our town," United Community members said in a news release. "The 2021 municipal election was ground-zero for social media and printed attacks against one another for no reason other than perceived affiliation with unpopular national agendas."

Party members promised they "will bridge the gap created by toxic politics and return the sense of community in our town. ... All are welcome to join a party that sees neither left or right, but instead forward progress."

The party's agenda includes a focus on education. The school district is growing rapidly, and United Community leaders said officials "must allow for balanced growth that takes into consideration the schools, infrastructure and maintaining the services and history our town cherishes so much.

"South Windsor is more than a suburb of Hartford that acts as a convenient hub for supply chains," the party members said. "We are home to a diverse and dynamic population that all share one very important belief: we live in an incredible community that needs to be treated with dignity, respect and pride."

The 2021 election reflected the national political divide, including town Democrats' charges that voting for local Republicans was akin to supporting former President Donald Trump, Adduci said. Republicans also engaged in "toxic dialogue," he said.

Democrats hold a 6-3 majority on the town council and 5-4 on the board of education. Mayor Elizabeth Pendleton and school board Chairman Craig Zimmerman, both Democrats, released a joint statement on the new party.

"While there is always room for improvement, the Democrats on both the town council and the board of education have worked with our Republican colleagues in the best interest of our entire community," they said. "With the formation of a local third party in town, we are committed to listening to a variety of opinions and discourse amongst all, no matter party affiliation."

Asked what he thought of the new party, Democratic Town Committee Chairman Tony Duarte said, "I extend my hand. I don't care what political party you belong to — it's got to be for the betterment of South Windsor first."

"I wish them the best of luck," Republican Town Committee Chairwoman Stephanie Weintraub said.

Republicans will miss the former party members, Weintraub said, but "your goal should always be the community... I hope they succeed and I hope Republicans can work with them."

Former GOP town committee chairwoman Kathy Daugherty agreed that the municipal election was particularly brutal.

"National politics have been brought into South Windsor, and it has become a blood sport," Daugherty said.

But launching a third party, she said, is easier than maintaining it. Adduci said the founders know that campaign fundraising will be a big challenge without major party support.

"We recognize we may be serving our very last terms in office... We're going to have to do a lot of work to play at their level," he said.

Four of the five founding members are former Republicans, but Waterhouse, the lone former Democrat, said she has worked closely with Adduci and with Kozikowski when he was on the school board. Waterhouse said she sees the new party's core members as people who just want what's best for South Windsor.

Adduci said United Community leaders will aggressively seek new members, in part through community efforts such as cleanups, blood drives and other events. For more information on the party, visit theucp.org.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.

Bolton in semis of song contest

Singer representing Connecticut in TV show competition

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

It's a "Beautiful World" again for Michael Bolton, who is now a semifinalist in "American Song Contest," a live nationally televised music competition.

Bolton is representing Connecticut in the contest featuring one act from each U.S. state or territory plus Washington, D.C. The musical styles so far have ranged from folk and country to novelty pop, hip hop and K-Pop.

As with the Eurovision Song Contest, the long-running European competition on which the new U.S.-centric "American Song Contest" is based, an act that has not been deemed the winner by the judges still has a chance to do better with votes from the live audience and TV viewers.

On Monday's episode, Bolton was in fifth place out of the initial 11 candidates in the judges' estimation. Without the popular vote, this would have blown Bolton's chances to advance because only the judges' top choice (Hueston, from Rhode Island) and three other acts could move on. Instead, the viewers lifted Bolton up among the semifinalists, along with Puerto Rico's Christian Pagán and Wyoming's AleXa.

If name recognition counted for anything, Bolton had a definite edge. He was easily the best-known performer on the first episode besides the show's hosts, Kelly Clarkson and Snoop Dogg (who are not among the competitors). Many of the contestants are up-and-coming regional talents. Another well-known contestant yet to perform on the show, is '90s pop star Jewel, representing Alaska. Jordan Smith, who won on Season 9 of "The Voice," represented Kentucky on Monday's episode.

Bolton's entry, "Beautiful World," is the kind of straightforward anthemic pop song with a relentlessly upbeat message that often does well in competitions like this. Recent Eurovision Song Contest winners include such pop songs as "Euphoria" and "Rise Like a Phoenix."

Bolton co-wrote "Beautiful World" with Justin Jesso, who will be a contestant later this season, representing Illinois.

Bolton grew up in downtown New Haven in the 1950s and 1960s. He led a hard rock band called Blackjack, which played frequently at Toad's Place in the 1970s, but ultimately gained fame in the 1980s and '90s with a series of adult contemporary radio hits such as "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You" and covers of "(Sittin' On) the Dock of the Bay" and "Georgia on My Mind."

The singer's long journey to mainstream success is recounted in his 2013 autobiography, "The Soul of It All: My Music, My Life." He continues to live in Connecticut, as a resident of Westport.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods
will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 215 Gold Star Highway, Groton, CT 06340 to satisfy a Lien on April
12th, 2022 at approximately 1:00 PM at www.storagetreasures.com:
Cube #37: Sharene Hyslop;
Cube #151: Anabel Owens;
Cube #181: Kristen Phillips;
Cube #209A: Joel Figueroa;
Cube #218: Michele Stone;
Cube #357: Evens Moreau;
Cube #500: Mindy Hoffer;
Cube #583: Nicole Scaniffe
3/29, 3/30/2022 7176520

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
177 Brickyard Rd, Farmington, CT 06032
Auction date- April 13, 2022 at 1 PM
Mary Intarvia Unit P18 household goods
Cynthia Trudell Unit V33 3 bedroom house
Brian p Glenn X60 household goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
Please run this on March 30th and April 6th, in zone 1. Please use a continuous wrap format to reduce size and send affidavit for each ad to address below. Also, please send proof of ad via email to ensure accuracy.
3/30, 4/6/2022 7155106

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
MAYOR'S OFFICE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown will be held in the Common Council Chamber of the Municipal Building and remotely, via WebEx, at Join A Meeting, Event # 2347 133 3190 on MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022, AT 7:00 PM to consider and act upon the following:

A. Assessor: $3,400 – Acct. No. 1000-10000-51110; cost associated with job reclassification from Grade 6 to Grade 8.

B. Water Department: $40,000 – Acct. No. 5000-60000-53210-0000-00000-0000-000; add to chemical line item for cost of water treatment chemicals, transitioning from chlorine gas to liquid sodium hypochlorite.

C. Fire: $261,000 – Acct. No. 2010-50000-51950-0500-00000-0000-000; immediate purchase of 59 sets of personal protective turnout gear.

D. Land Use: $3,506 – Acct. No. 1000-14000-55180-0000-00000-0000-000; funds to pay Connecticut River Conservancy for removal of invasive aquatic species, replacing expired FY 20-21 appropriation

Any and all persons interested may appear and be heard.

ATTEST:
HON. BENJAMIN D. FLORSHEIM,
MAYOR

Dated at Middletown, Connecticut, 30th of March, 2022
3/30/2022 7175632

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Charles F. Heebner, Late of HADDAM (22-0159)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated March 21, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Cheryl Juhnke, 79 Metacomet Dr., Plainville, CT 06062 Lawrence C. Heebner, 18 Cedar Street, Centerbrook, CT 06409

3/30/22 7178545

AD:
Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

190 Old Farms Road, Avon, CT 06001-860-598-4899. April 6th 2022@ 12:30 PM.

Alice Lund - Unit 241 - Metal ladder, wooden clothes trunk , boxes, empty plastice totes, chairs, small kitchen wooden table.

Zhenghao Sun - Unit 12028 - Sports bag, shoe box, filled bags , other sports equipement/ items

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
3/23 & 3/30/22 7164810

TOWN OF ESSEX
Board of Finance
APRIL 14, 2022, 7:30 PM
Essex Town Hall Auditorium
29 West Avenue, Essex, CT 06426

PUBLIC NOTICE

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Finance of the Town of Essex, Connecticut, will hold a Public Hearing in the Essex Town Hall Auditorium, 29 West Avenue in said Essex, and by remote access via Zoom Meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 7:30 pm to receive estimates and requests for expenditures of the Town of Essex for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, and to hear any and all persons who wish to be heard in regard to any
appropriation they are desirous the Board should recommend or reject.

Citizens interested in participating in the Public Hearing may join via
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86439916305 pwd=0UNVMEYvNDZ2Vk9hTzBYQkRWSWdOdz09 and/or use any phone to connect to the meeting by dialing +1 646 558 8656 and entering Meeting ID: 864 3991 6305 when prompted with Passcode: 097104, shortly before 7:30 p.m. that evening. Budget materials are available on the Town website at www.essexct.gov.

_____
Keith Crehan
Chairman
Board of Finance
4/7/22 7178577

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARYANN MOTYL, late of East Hampton (22-00054)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated March 25, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Debra C. Daniels, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Rosemary Marella
c/o NICHOLAS T KOCIAN, NICHOLAS KOCIAN PC DBA KOCIAN LAW GROUP, 999 ASYLUM STREET, 4TH FLOOR, HARTFORD, CT 06105
3/30/22 7178420

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Commission of the Town of Old Saybrook will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022 in the 1st floor conference room, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street and via teleconference to consider the following:

Petition to Amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations for Animal Care Services as a Special Exception Use in the B-4 zone.
Sect. 9 new definition of animal care services, new Sec. 34.2.15 Animal Care Services as Special Exception Use and 53 Special Standards.
Applicants: Janet & Michael Stoner
Agent: Attorney Terry Lomme

Public Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/92356062093?pwd=WEZSYVdRcm1Dcms4d2wxMGFTVitiZz09
Meeting ID: 923 5606 2093
Meeting Passcode: 302302
Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866
One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,,92356062093#

At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard and written communications may be submitted in advance via email to chris.costa@oldsaybrookct.gov or regular mail. Copies of applications and plans are on file in the Land Use Department, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street and at www.oldsaybrookct.gov/zoning-commission

OLD SAYBROOK ZONING COMMISSION
Robert C. Friedmann, Chairman
3/23 &3/30/22 7154662

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:
50 Olesen Rd Wethersfield CT 06109
860-266-3184
Auction Date- April 6, 2022 1:00 PM
6415 Natasha Cawley House goods
6221 Sam Russell House goods
3034 Loxley Reid House goods
5166 Heather Jean Doura House goods
3003 David Usher House goods
8102 Kale' Harrold House goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
3/23, 3/30/2022 7170192

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Commission of the Town of Old Saybrook will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022 in the 1st floor conference room, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street and via teleconference to consider the following:

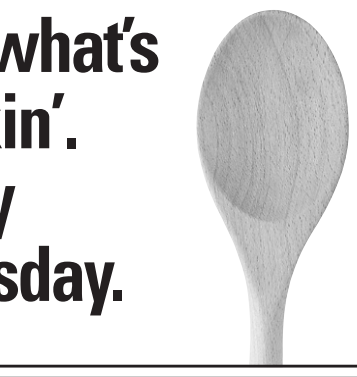
Petition to Amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations for Animal Care Services as a Special Exception Use in the AA-1 District.
Sect. 9 new definition of animal care services, new Sec. 22.2.2 Animal Care Services as Special Exception Use and 53 Special Standards.
Applicant: Erik P. Anderson and Jenny L. Anderson
Agent: Attorney Edward M. Cassella

Public Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/92356062093?pwd=WEZSYVdRcm1Dcms4d2wxMGFTVitiZz09
Meeting ID: 923 5606 2093
Meeting Passcode: 302302
Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866
One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,,92356062093#

At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard and written communications may be submitted in advance via email to chris.costa@oldsaybrookct.gov or regular mail. Copies of applications and plans are on file in the Land Use Department, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street and at www.oldsaybrookct.gov/zoning-commission

OLD SAYBROOK ZONING COMMISSION
Robert C. Friedmann, Chairman
3/23, 3/30/2022 7166069

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LIVING
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"Being a human, particularly right now, is stressful. And when we think of how degenerative stress is, and how harmful to the body, we need something that can help mitigate it."

— Nkechi Njaka, a meditation guide in San Francisco with a background in neuroscience



SEB AGRESTI/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Declutter your mind

Arrival of spring is a natural point to take stock of mental well-being

By Christina Caron | The New York Times

Coronavirus cases are receding across the United States, and face masks are coming off. Little green shoots are finally poking through the earth, signaling the arrival of warmer weather. The pandemic has not been declared over, but after living in survival mode for the past two years, some would say we are emerging into a "new normal." Although that doesn't mean our minds are at ease.

Many have endured illness, economic upheaval, the climate crisis, grief and racial inequities. Add to that inflation, supply chain issues and the ripple effects of Russia's war with Ukraine — three of the biggest sources of stress among people in the United States right now, according to a recent poll for the American Psychological Association.

Perhaps, experts say, the arrival of spring can serve as a natural point to take stock of our mental well-being and reconnect with the things that bring us purpose and joy, offering our brains a respite when possible.

"It really is — for a number of reasons — a perfect time for folks to turn their attention to taking an inventory. Where do I find myself? What have I been through?" said Paul Napper, a psychology consultant to business leaders and co-author of "The Power of Agency: The 7 Principles to Conquer Obstacles, Make Effective Decisions and Create a Life on Your Own Terms."

Creating a clear, more focused mind starts by making decisions about how we spend our time every day. When those choices are in line with our values, interests and passions, this is referred to as personal agency.

Here are five ways to declutter your mind as we enter a new season.

Practice mindfulness

"Being a human, particularly right now, is stressful," said Nkechi Njaka, a meditation guide in San Francisco with a background in neuroscience. "And when we think of how degenerative stress is, and how harmful to the body, we need something that can help mitigate it."

Mindfulness meditation, a practice that helps you remember to return to the present when you become distracted, has been shown to reduce the stress of daily life. When people notice that their mind is racing or they start to become anxious, they are typically thinking about something in the past or in the future.

To refocus on the here and now, you can start by noticing the sensations in the body, Njaka said. "Can we feel the ground below us? The heat of the sun?" It is normal for the mind to wander. If this happens, gently return your awareness to your breathing and come back to the present.

Try the Bullet Journal method

Studies have found that jotting down thoughts in a journal can improve well-being.

One method that has gained popularity in recent years is a practice created by digital designer Ryder Carroll and outlined in his bestselling book, "The Bullet Journal Method: Track the Past, Order the Present, Design the Future."

The Bullet Journal is an organizational system but also an exercise in mindfulness — one that requires you to continually reevaluate how you are investing your time and energy and then decide whether those things are worth it.

Otherwise, Carroll said, "you can be very productive working on the wrong things."

Reduce information overload

We have all been inundated by a relentless news cycle, a fire hose of information coming at us in the form of breaking news notifications, social media posts and email newsletters (among other sources) that can leave us feeling anxious, angry or even helpless.

"Now is the time to completely overhaul your news consumption," said Cal Newport, a computer science professor at Georgetown University and author of "Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World."

Choose just one or two reliable sources and read them at a specific time each day, he advised. For example, you can listen to a news roundup podcast while commuting to work or read a newspaper at breakfast, Newport said.

Newport, who is 39 and has managed to avoid social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and TikTok for his entire adult life, also recommends taking a 30-day break from the technologies in your life that are optional.

Declutter your physical space

During the pandemic, and especially during lockdown, many people finally began to clear the junk out of their homes, a phenomenon The Washington Post referred to as the "great decluttering." If you haven't tackled your pile of clutter, now might be a good time to do it.

"Messy spaces tend to prevent clear cognitive thinking," said Catherine Roster, a professor at the Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico and who has researched how cluttered homes affect people. "It has a distorting effect that can bleed into other aspects of a person's life — not only their emotions but their productivity."

Hiring a professional organizer to help sort through the mess is not within everyone's budget, so Roster suggested relying on a buddy — ideally someone who is also decluttering their home. Together, the two of you can serve as a sounding board for each other to make decisions about what to keep and stay on schedule. Listening to music while you sort and organize can also help motivate you, she said.

Reconnect with the people you love

"What I'm seeing with my patients is that many seem to be emotionally cluttered," said Barbara Greenberg, a clinical psychologist in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Information overload coupled with either social isolation or not getting your needs met socially or emotionally "is a really bad brew," she added.

If there are people you care about whom you have lost touch with during the pandemic, don't be shy about getting back in touch, she said. "We need the support and levity of people who make us feel good."

EX-ETIQUETTE

When birthday shopping for a partner's ex, lead with love

By Jann Blackstone
Tribune News Service

Q: My partner has a very cordial relationship with her ex. They adopted a child together and share custody now, so I am with their son quite often. I have had a strained relationship with my partner's ex, and something has come up recently that has really thrown me. My partner travels for work and has very little down time. She will not be able to buy a birthday present for their son's mother, so she has asked me to take their son out to buy the present. This just sounds weird to me and makes me really uncomfortable. What's good ex-etiquette?

A: The first time I took my bonus kids to buy a present for their mother was quite an eye-opener. Their dad left it for the last minute, which was typical. I thought he was crazy to ask me to do it and told him so. He didn't care, he just needed my help, so reluctantly, I loaded the kids in the car, and we headed for the mall.

When you buy a present for someone, you must consider what they like. I didn't know, so I had to consult the kids. I watched their happy faces as they talked about their mom. When they started telling me funny stories about the things she did, through their giggles, that's when everything sunk in. It wasn't me against her — it was all of us for the kids we all loved. I had just wasted a lot of time acting foolishly.

As the kids and I considered this or that for their mother's present, my then-9-year-old bonus daughter squealed, "This is so fun!" I can still hear her voice — and that was the shift. Rather than feel jealousy or anger, the act I had been dreading instantly became a privilege. Buying a present for her mother made a child I loved happy.

From then on, each year I took the kids out to buy a present for their mother. Sometimes their dad went, sometimes he didn't, but the gesture of openly considering what their mother might like brought us all closer. Although we never discussed it, it brought their mom and I closer, too.



DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Pinkett Smith breaks silence after slap

From news services

Jada Pinkett Smith seems ready to move on.

Two days after Chris Rock mocked her shaved head and her husband rushed the stage at the Academy Awards to slap him in her defense, the "Red Table Talk" host issued her first public comments without ever mentioning the viral incident.

"This is a season for healing and I'm for it," reads a pale pink graphic Pinkett Smith shared on Instagram on Tuesday.

Despite not saying what she's referring to, Will Smith's slap is almost certainly the topic of conversation, as it has been for nearly everyone since the Oscars on Sunday.

With the Smiths in the front row, Rock, who was presenting the award for documentary feature, joked that he was excited to see Jada in "G.I. Jane 2," alluding to Demi Moore's shaved head in the 1997 Ridley Scott movie. But Jada's shaved head is due to her condition called alopecia areata — a disease causing hair loss that occurs when the body's immune system attacks hair follicles — not a movie role.

Will Smith jumped on stage, slapped Rock, then walked back to his seat and yelled at the comedian to "keep my wife's name out of your (expletive) mouth."

Smith, who went on to win best actor for "King Richard," apologized to Rock in a statement posted to Instagram on Monday.



Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith arrive Sunday at the Oscars in Los Angeles. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION

Swift to receive honorary NYU degree: New York University plans to honor Taylor Swift next month with a doctor of fine arts degree and says the superstar singer will address graduates at the May 18 commencement ceremony at Yankee Stadium.

In announcing her honorary doctorate Monday, NYU described Swift, 32, as "one of the most prolific and celebrated artists of her generation."

Past recipients of an honorary degree from NYU include former President Bill Clinton, civil rights leader John Lewis, 18-time Grammy winner Aretha Franklin and actor Billy Crystal.

Swift is an 11-time Grammy winner and the only woman to win album of the year three times at the annual music award show. Her many hits include "I Knew You Were Trouble," "Love Story," "Shake It Off," "Bad Blood" and "Blank Space."

John adds more dates to farewell tour: Elton John has added 11 new dates on the North American leg of his farewell tour, including concerts in New Jersey, Massachusetts, California, Arizona and Washington state.

The "Rocket Man" singer begins his final run of dates in North America in Philadelphia on July 15, finishing with a three-night engagement at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in November.

Next year, John has two shows in Auckland, New Zealand, in January and soon-to-be-announced dates in Australia before the epic five-year tour formally concludes in Stockholm, Sweden, on July 8, 2023.

March 30 birthdays: TV personality Peter Marshall is 96. Actor John Astin is 92. Actor Warren Beatty is 85. Musician Eric Clapton is 77. Actor Paul Reiser is 66. Rapper MC Hammer is 60. Singer Tracy Chapman is 58. TV host Piers Morgan is 57. Singer Celine Dion is 54. Actor Mark Consuelos is 51. Singer Norah Jones is 43. Actor Katy Mixon is 41.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Abused daughter turns into angry caregiver

Dear Amy: I was physically and emotionally abused as a child. Mom probably has a personality disorder, and Dad is a willing enabler and child beater.

I left home 45 years ago, at age 17.

I have a happy marriage and am close to my adult kids. Ditto for my long-distance younger brother. He has no love for either parent, but out of duty calls Dad weekly. He does not have any relationship with Mom.

My brother and I have good lives, but there is a broken place inside both of us.

My elderly parents moved close by me so I could take care of them in their declining years. I thought I could do it with compassion in my heart, but I find that I'm filled with anger and resentment. My dad is receiving hospice care, but Mom is robust, and could easily live another 10 or 15 years.

I visit two to three times a week, plaster on a fake smile and pretend to care.

I hate feeling this way.

I'm seeing a therapist, but it is not doing much good unraveling 60 years of malice. How do other people handle caring for aging abusive parents?

— *Sad Mad Daughter*

Dear Daughter: Many people don't care for aging and abusive parents. (You might be amazed at how often elderly people in long-term care facilities have no visitors.)

I assume that sometimes these family members are wracked with guilt about staying away. Others are doing their best to take care of themselves — as your brother seems to be doing.

If your parents have been living independently and relying on you for basic necessities, when your father passes away, your mother's living situation will have to change. Look now for an assisted living situation for her. If she refuses, a social worker can define her choices.

Because you accepted the role of caregiver, you should now redefine what that means. If you make sure your mother has clean and safe housing, food and medical care — then this is a compassionate response to her basic needs.

Must you see her three times a week with a smile plastered on your face? No.

When you are behaving in a way that causes you pain (multiple visits a week), the logical reaction is to behave in a way that lessens the pain (reduce to one visit a week).

Understand that the people who traumatized, abused and beat you as a child will not deliver a satisfying ending for you.

Work with your therapist on "loving detachment," where you can create boundaries, while releasing any expectations regarding a reckoning.

Dear Amy: My teenage son is a very good tennis player, and plays competitively in tournaments.

He has competed from a very young age, but more recently he has experienced a string of losses that are debilitating to his confidence and to the quality of our family life.

When he loses close matches, it produces lot of arguments within our family and some finger pointing, and of course anger.

I'm seeking any advice or ideas that you may have.

— *Tennis Dad*

Dear Dad: Your son would benefit from some therapeutic "coaching" from a qualified counselor who has experience working with high-octane teens.

You should not pressure him and make sure he understands that winning at life will be more important than winning at tennis.

Stepping away from tennis altogether for a time might help him to clarify whether he can feel joy playing well in a tough match, even if he loses.

I recommend that your family read Andre Agassi's riveting and revealing autobiography: "Open: An Autobiography" (2009, Knopf).

Agassi wrote: "A win doesn't feel as good as a loss feels bad, and the good feeling doesn't last as long as the bad. Not even close."

Dear Amy: People often ask you how to respond when someone directs an offensive comment their way.

I know they are looking for a good one-liner, but my mother had a way of shutting people down: She would just quietly look at them and not say anything.

Sometimes the best comeback is no comeback.

— *Missing Mom*

Dear Missing: I thought my mother invented the long stare! I agree that it is very effective and strangely terrifying to behold.

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Shift away from gameplay allows 'Halo' series to focus on characters

By Tracy Brown
Los Angeles Times

Toward the end of the first episode of "Halo," Master Chief — the commander of a squad of scientifically enhanced soldiers known as Spartans — is held at rifle point by Kwan, a teen captive who has just lost everything.

The weapon poses no threat against the high-tech armor protecting the interstellar super soldier. But after turning to face Kwan (Yerin Ha), who is understandably confused and concerned about her safety and future, Master Chief (Pablo Schreiber) takes off his helmet.

It's a moment that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Based on the long-running video game franchise, "Halo," which recently premiered on Paramount+, is a sci-fi-infused fantasy drama set in a future where humanity is at war with itself as well as a coalition of aliens known as the Covenant.

Master Chief, also known as John-117 (or just John), has been the helmeted face of the franchise since his introduction as the playable character in the first "Halo" game, 2001's "Halo: Combat Evolved." The television series' premiere is the first time any incarnation of Master Chief is seen removing his helmet on screen.

"For some people, this has been a moment they've been waiting for 20 years to happen," said executive producer Kiki Wolfkill, who oversees "Halo" transmedia for 343 Industries. "For other people, it's a moment they believe should never happen because part of the game experience is you inhabiting that character."

The moment is narratively significant in the developing dynamic between Master Chief and Kwan, and it also signals some of the storytelling priorities that distinguish a television show from a first-person shooter video game.



Pablo Schreiber in "Halo." ADRIENN SZABO/PARAMOUNT+

Although this series marks "Halo's" first foray into live-action television, the franchise spans two trilogies of core games as well as prequels and spin-off games, novels and other adaptations. After diving into "Halo" lore, one of the challenges for the show's creative team became choosing what story to tell in the series. Another was figuring out how to translate a first-person shooter game into a show about a character that's three-dimensional.

"Halo's" Master Chief comes with a peculiar hurdle: Everyone who has played a "Halo" game is already invested in their own version of Master Chief that the games allow them to embrace.

"We took that challenge and made that the core of the first season," said executive producer Steven Kane. "Who is Master Chief? (The show) is really about John, Master Chief, 117, himself discovering who he is ... (and) discovering his own humanity."

This shift away from the game's first-person perspective also gives the show the opportunity to focus on characters and introduce places that haven't been explored in the games.

Take Cortana (Jen Taylor), the AI character who in the games assists Master Chief and helps guide players through missions. In the series, audiences will see the creation of Cortana and will be introduced to her and John's complicated dynamic from the beginnings of their relationship.

The series also follows Kwan, whose father was helping to lead their planet's rebellion against the United Nations Space Command (the military and scientific arm of a central interplanetary human government).

Kwan allows the show to question elements of the world that players don't necessarily have to confront when playing as a soldier making their way through missions. It's a nuance only possible by expanding the story to show more civilian life and viewpoints outside of the United Nations Space Command.

"With a game, gameplay is king," said Wolfkill. "The story is meant to support the gameplay experience. But with television, story is king. All other decisions are driven by the story."

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your imagination is larger than life today — it could provide you with some insights. Whether you channel this into a creative project or toward releasing old baggage, there is a strong sense of letting life lead, rather than forcing your own agenda.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You could feel like a rather hot commodity today, as though you suddenly became the leader of the cool kids. You might normally choose to stick to the tried and true, but you can benefit from breaking out of any established patterns. If the chance to incorporate new people comes up, take it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): The universe is lifting you up, up, and away, today, giving you the boundless trajectory and power of a rocket. With these two heavenly bodies pushing you along, you can achieve a lot without much effort. All you need to make your mark is a positivity. Trust that it will carry you far!

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Limitations are a thing of the past — or at least have no place on today's agenda. The bigger your ideas are, the better they can serve you! Make an effort to give your life a kick-start by signing up for a course or starting a new hobby that engages your mind.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Today is offering you a major chance for transformation, amplifying your awareness of the serious sides of your existence. Things may get heavier but at least try to consider putting an end to old ways to allow yourself a chance at a fresh start. As one season comes to an end, another begins.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Other people could seem almost impossible to ignore whenever they appear in your vicinity today, putting a big focus on how you connect with the important people in your life and the way you shape bonds. This is a great day for spending time with loved ones or simply hanging out with a close friend.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Work, or wherever you normally go to spend your day, could be the setting for some major developments, turning your attention to tasks at hand. If you were hoping for a quiet and easy day, you'll probably be disappointed — but on the other hand, a major win is definitely on the table.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Something fabulous is bubbling up to the surface today, creating a sparkling opportunity for you! It will be almost impossible to ignore the positive vibrations now, so put your responsibilities on the back burner and give yourself permission to fly free.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You might notice an undeniable buoyancy today — it may surprise you to know that the source is none other than yourself! You can use this energy to everyone's advantage by sharing the love and appreciation. People will likely be grateful for your optimistic spin and your reliable nature.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Today has "social" written all over it, but whether that friendliness comes with any efficiency or is just for fun is another matter entirely. You'll probably be bouncing around with plenty to do from dawn till dusk. Even so, don't worry too much about any ambitious achievements.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money matters are going to be up for inspection today. You've probably got your eye on living the good life. Even if you're normally happy with a rather Spartan existence, give yourself permission to indulge in a few little luxuries . Check out sales, you could score a deal!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You get to put yourself front and center today, regardless of whether or not you would normally play the wallflower. "No" isn't even in your vocabulary right now! Do your best to stick to your own plans and leave any negative people in the dust.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 30, 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for $7.2 million, a deal ridiculed by critics as "Seward's Folly."

In 1945, during World War II, the Soviet Union invaded Austria with the goal of taking Vienna.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C., hotel by John W. Hinckley Jr.

In 1987, at the Academy Awards, "Platoon" was named best picture; and Paul Newman was honored as best actor for "The Color of Money."

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed a single measure sealing his health care overhaul and making the government the primary lender to students.

In 2015, Comedy Central announced that Trevor Noah would succeed Jon Stewart as host of "The Daily Show."

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

			8		1			9
		5					8	
				7				6
8						9		
	2		7	6	4		5	
9				2				1
	4					6		
2			1		9	4		

Level: 1 2 **3** 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

5	7	4	9	3	1	9	8	2
2	9	9	7	8	5	1	4	3
1	3	8	9	2	4	7	5	9
7	1	2	8	9	3	4	6	5
8	5	3	4	9	7	9	2	1
4	6	9	5	1	2	3	7	8
6	2	5	3	7	9	8	1	4
3	8	1	2	4	6	5	9	7
9	4	7	1	5	8	2	3	6

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7/13/17

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: take a break

330

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

M Q H A Z T S F V V P H K C E R W C
B D W S N I P I H A F L S N B I C I
A M E O A N L U N G K R O U U F R E
T N A C R R I S R A B Y A H R T A Z
T H R N I H T H H S A M S C S C C A
E T A C G M T N I H I A H W T M K R
R M E F W L A R W L R D A R F U U X
U T T S R W E T E C A P T W U I R R
T C F O P A R T E V X T T S N J E E
P U W R P A Z E W S O E E Y O N T E
U R Y F A P L Z N F L C R V D H A R
R T I T I G L L L C A I E F N S L A
E S A Y H S M E O E H R T O A I I D
K E C D C T S E R C T Y I S B L T I
B D A M A G E U N U P S V H A O U C
X W M K E O H E R T Z I G R U M M A
J D G C R J Y N Q E N K R E V E S T
L R G P B N E L B M U T T D I D I E

ABANDON
ANNIHILATE
BATTER
BEAT
BREACH
BURST
COLLAPSE
CRACK
CRASH
CRUSH
DAMAGE
DECIMATE
DEMOLISH
DESTRUCT
DISRUPT
ERADICATE
ERUPT
FISSURE
FRACTURE
FRAGMENT
FRAZZLE
GASH
MANGLE
MUTILATE
OVERTHROW
OVERTURN
RAZE
REND
RIFT
RUIN
RUPTURE
SEVER
SHATTER
SHRED
SLIT
SMASH
SNAP
SPLIT
TEAR
TOPPLE
TRASH
TUMBLE
WRECK
WRENCH

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BOGGLE

Boggle BrainBusters

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

C	I	P	A
G	E	T	K
R	A	L	X
V	B	F	O

BUPH WOIS GOKE AGLM

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31 - 60 = Gamer
- 21 - 30 = Rookie
- 11 - 20 = Amateur
- 0 - 10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST SIX THREE-LETTER MAMMALS in the grid of letters.

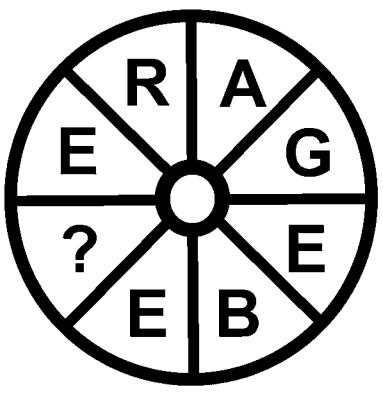
APE BAT RAT ELK PIG FOX

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1-6-20

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

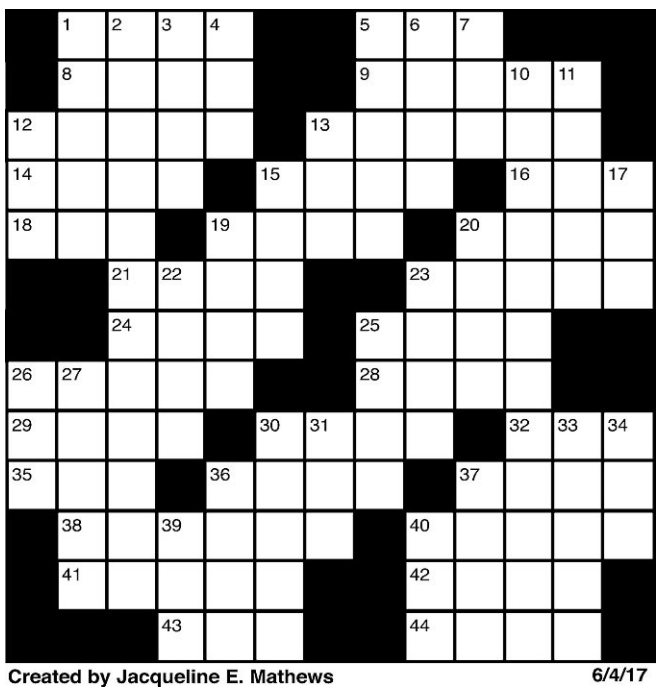
BEVERAGE

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1/9

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/4/17

ACROSS
1 "__ Trek: Voyager"
5 Polly Holliday's role on "Alice"
8 Portrayer of the Skipper on "Gilligan's Island"
9 Name for a Beatle
12 Zachery Ty __ of "Home Improvement"
13 "Candid __"
14 Snakelike fishes
15 "The Twilight __"
16 __ out a living; get by
18 Fight result, for short
19 Chess piece
20 Recolors
21 Womanizer
23 "The Man Who __ There"; Billy Bob Thornton movie
24 Mixon of "American Housewife"
25 Diana Maria __ of "Man with a Plan"
26 Mrs. Archie Bunker
28 "__ Range"; movie for Kevin Costner and Robert Duvall
29 TV rooms, often
30 "Cold __"
32 King Kong, for one
35 "The Streets of __ Francisco"
36 "Name That __"
37 And others: abbr.
38 Almost
40 Flip-__; rubber sandals
41 Pancake topper
42 Actress Samms
43 "__, Dear"
44 "Me and the __"; Steve Harvey sitcom

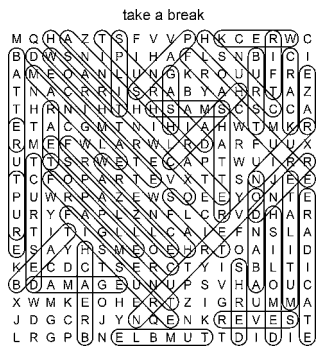
DOWN
1 Green cartoon ogre
2 Actor on "Chicago Fire"
3 Word of woe
4 "The __ & Stimpy Show"
5 Role on "Everybody Loves Raymond"
6 Citrus fruit
7 "__ Life to Live"
10 Medical drama series
11 Made of hard, sturdy wood
12 "You __ Your Life"; Groucho's show
13 Pigeon's cry
15 Yara Shahidi's role on "Black-ish"
17 Suffix for strong and long
19 Buzzi of "Laugh-In"
20 Actor Annable
22 Cheerios ingredients
23 Use a towel
25 Role on "The Golden Girls"
26 Begley and Bradley
27 Martin and Cain
30 Actor Robert and his family
31 "__ Given Sunday"; Al Pacino film
33 The Mamas & the __
34 Golfer Ernie __
36 "__ Grit"; Matt Damon movie
37 Red Muppet
39 Suffix for bound or comment
40 Winter month: abbr.

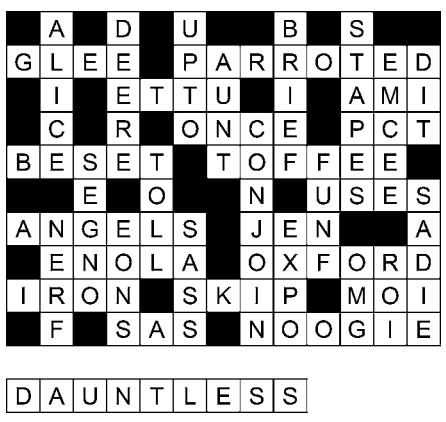


6/11/17

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take a break





D A U N T L E S S

JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OGGEU

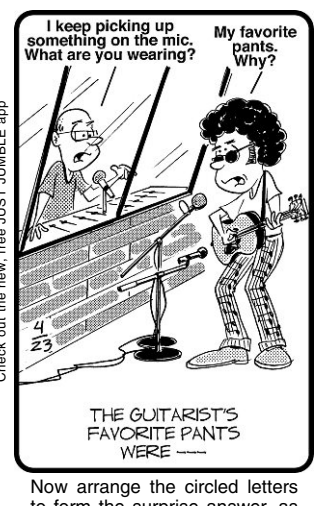
KRAND

SLUDOH

CARIPY

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

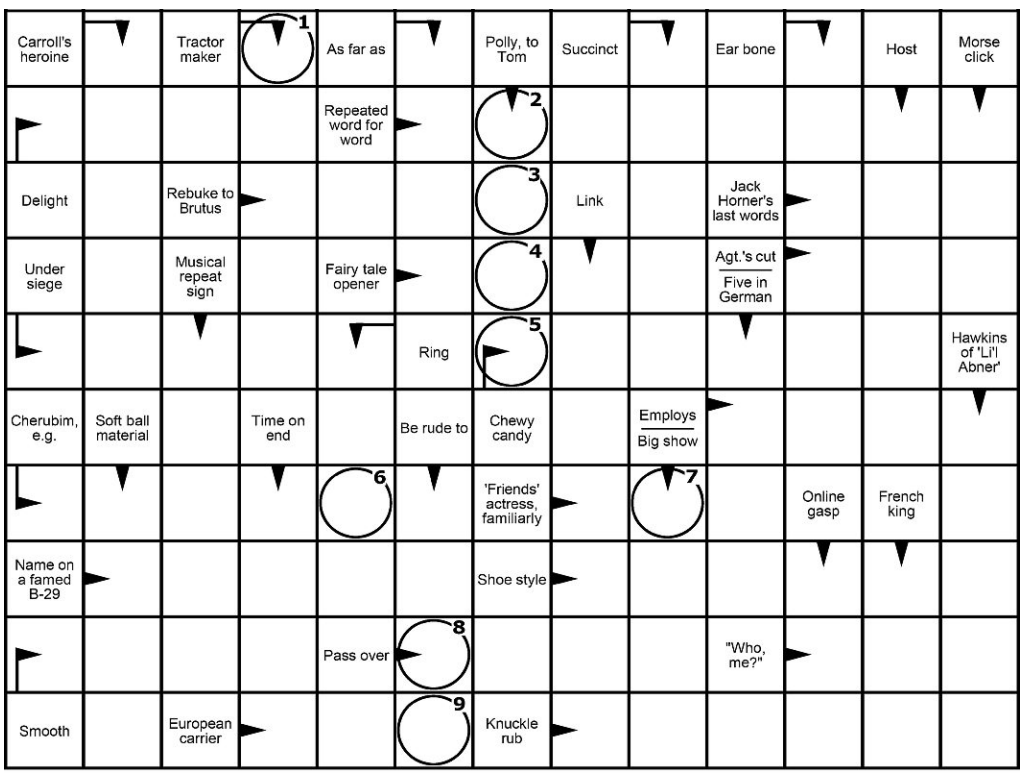
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: " ○○○○○○ - ○○○○○○ "

Jumbles: GOUGE DRANK SHOULD PIRACY
Answer: The guitarist's favorite pants were — "CHORD-UROYS"

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

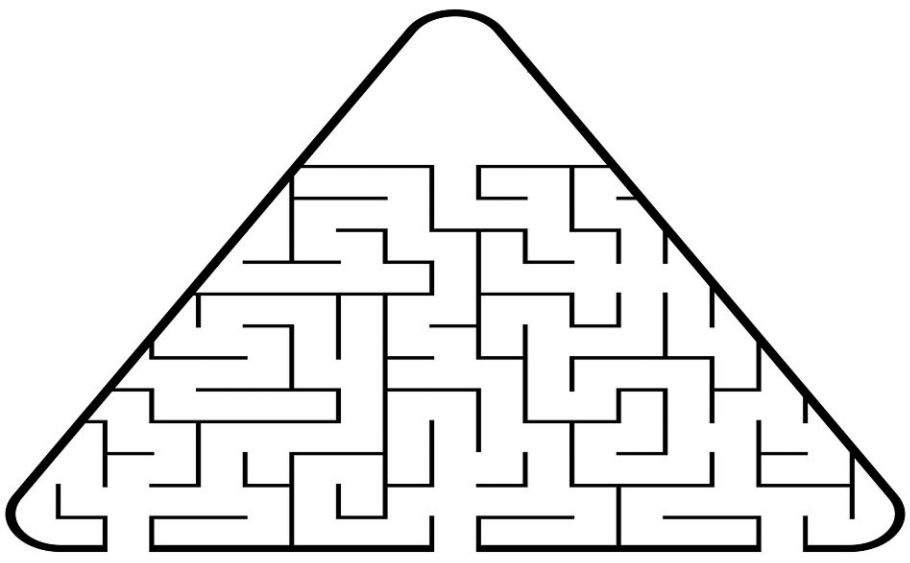


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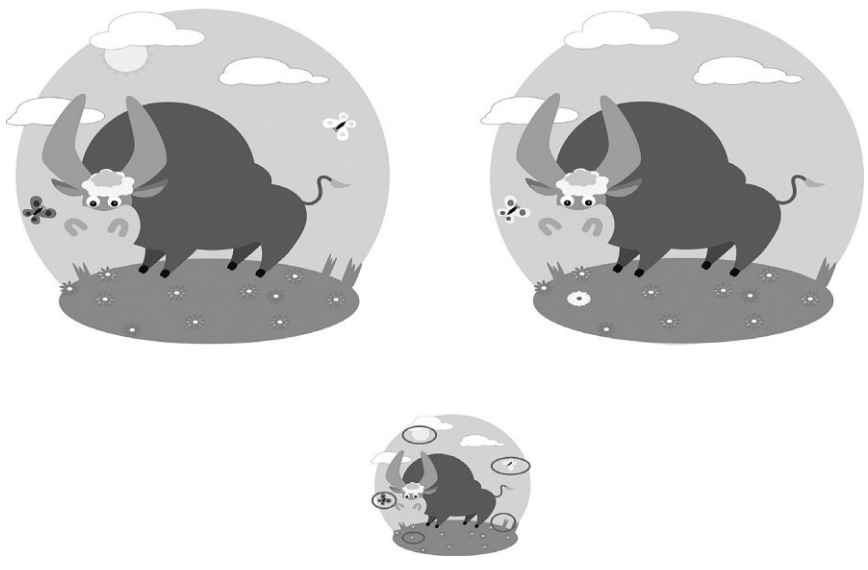
8/16/20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

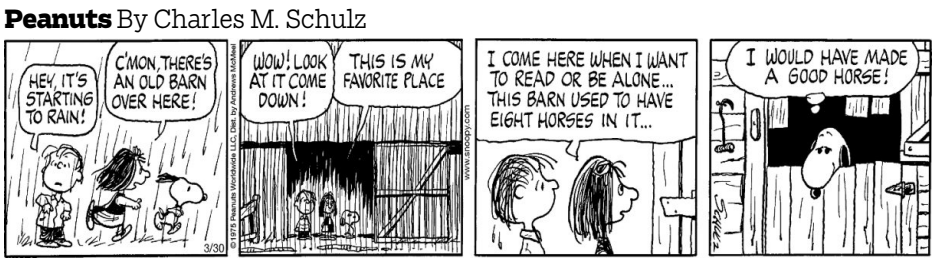
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



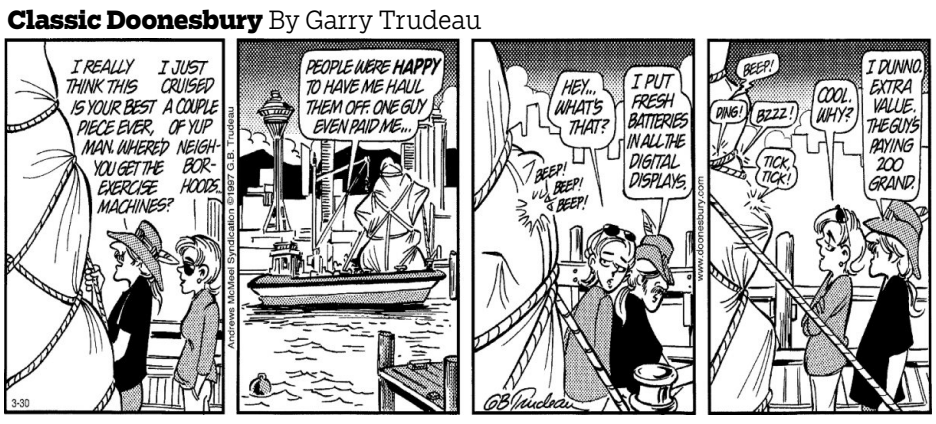
FIND 5 DIFFERENCES



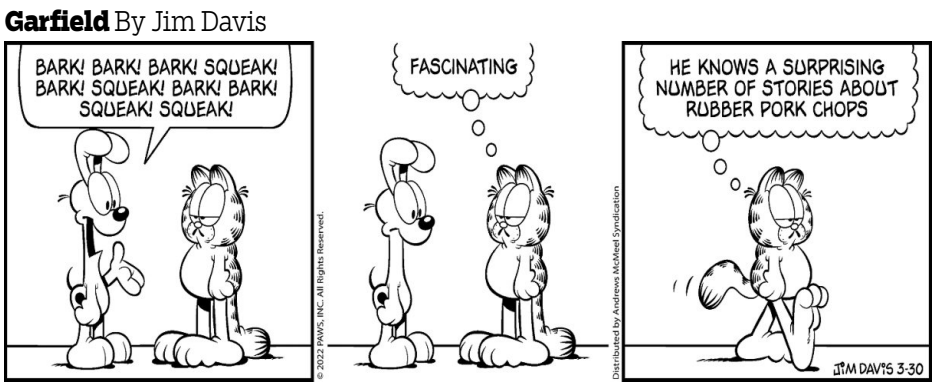
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



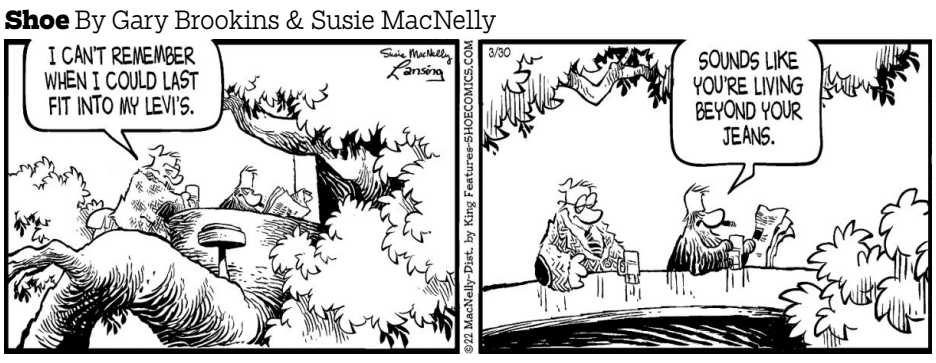
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



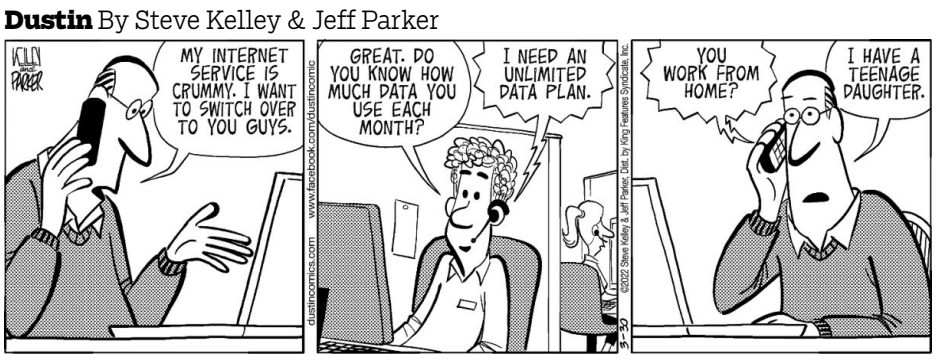
Garfield By Jim Davis



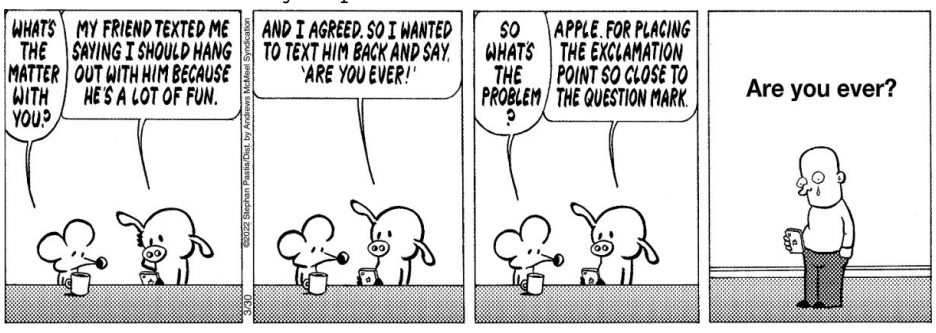
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



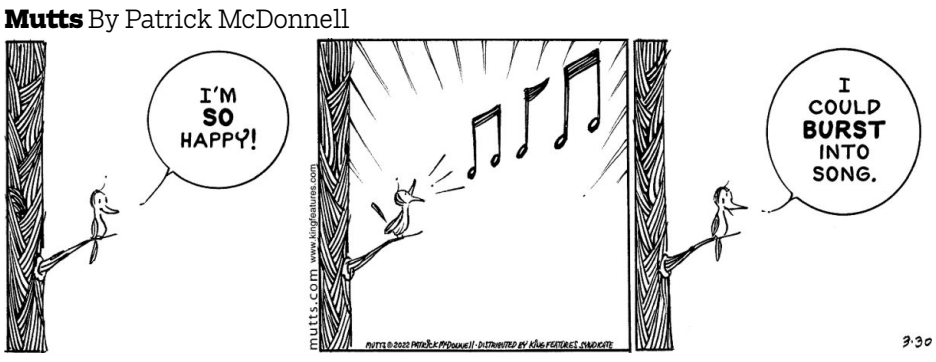
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



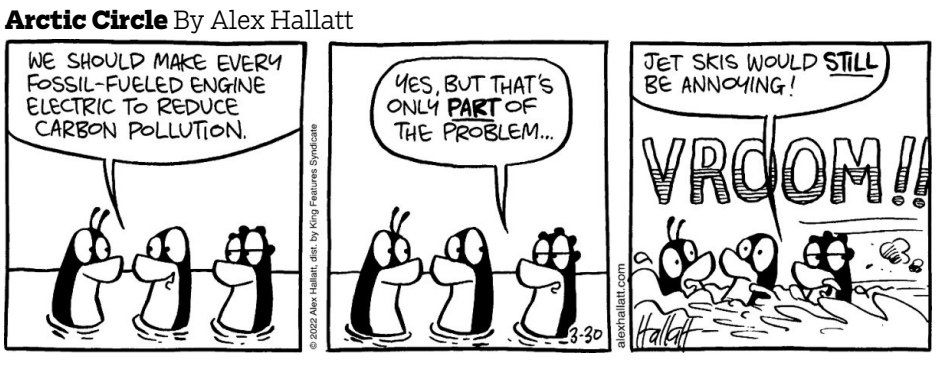
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



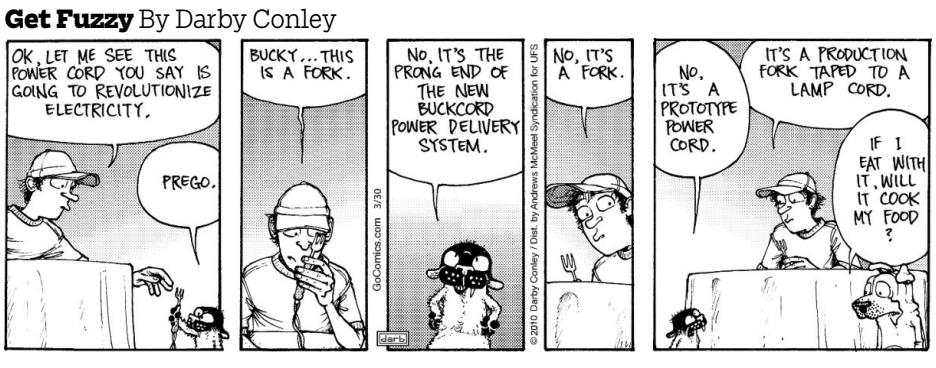
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



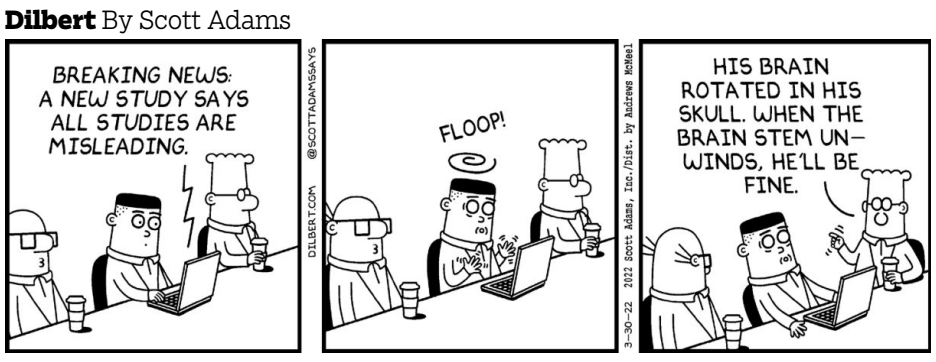
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



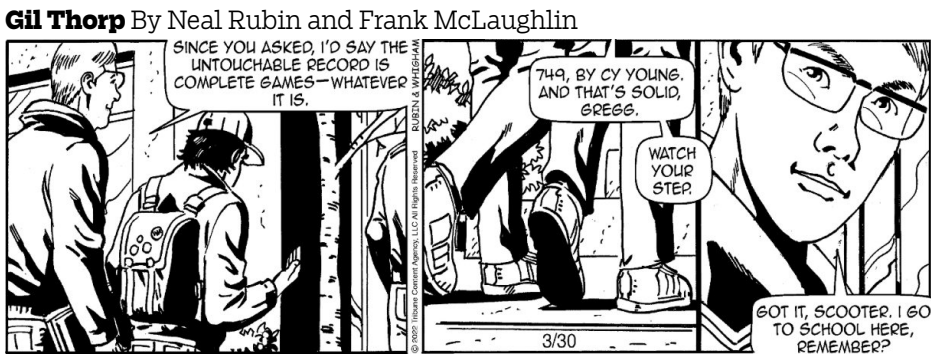
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



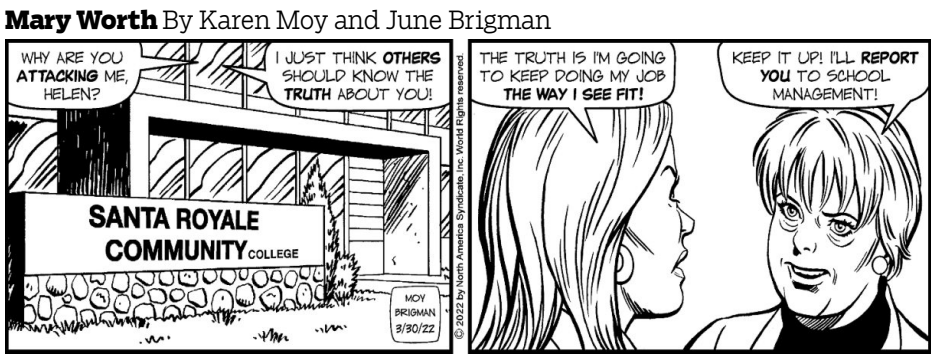
Dilbert By Scott Adams



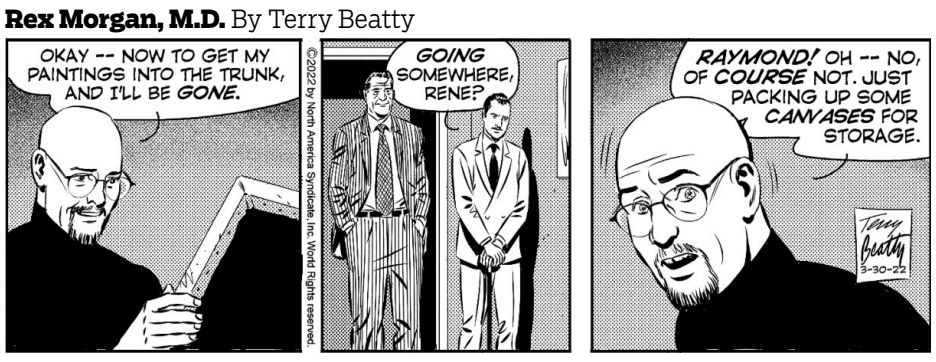
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



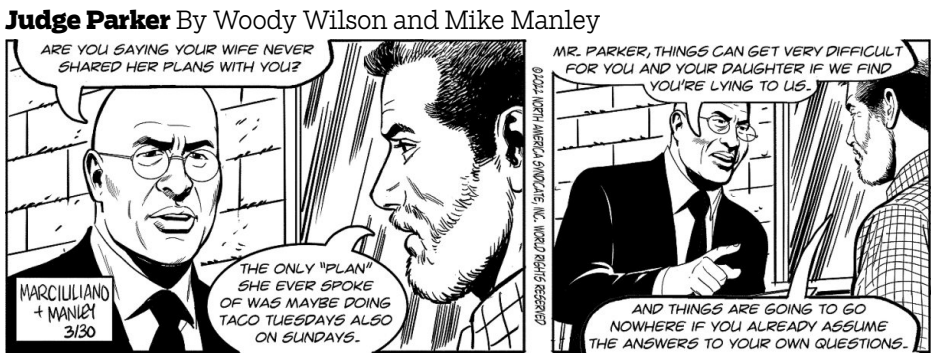
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



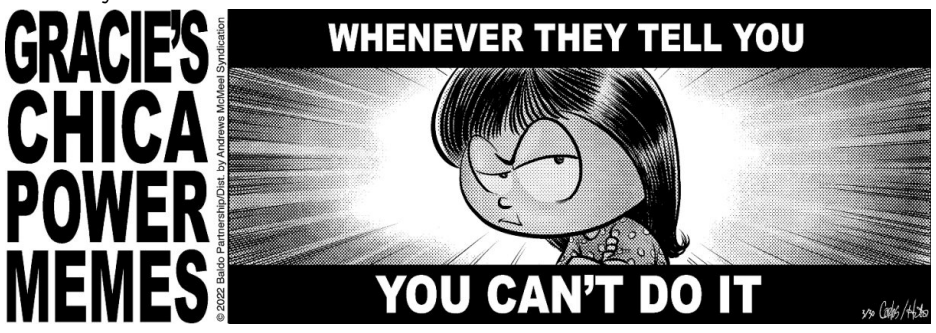
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



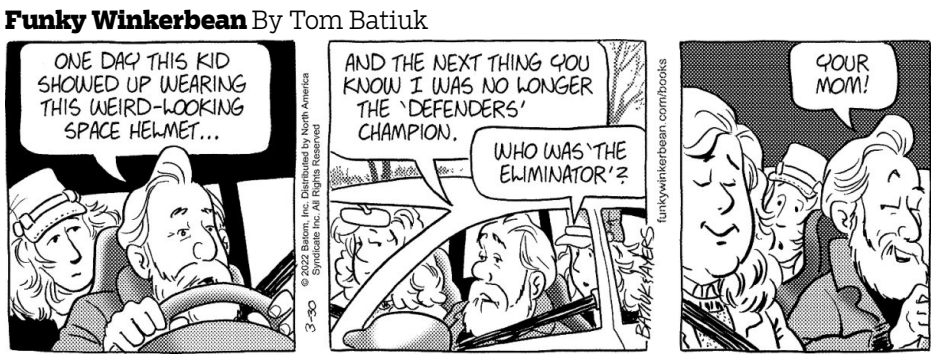
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



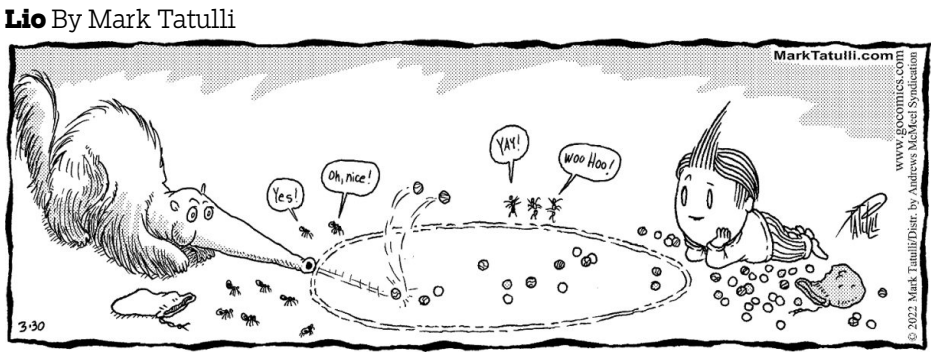
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



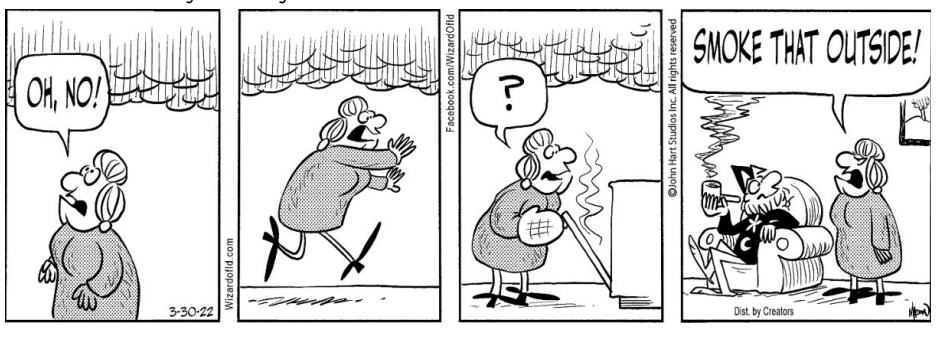
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



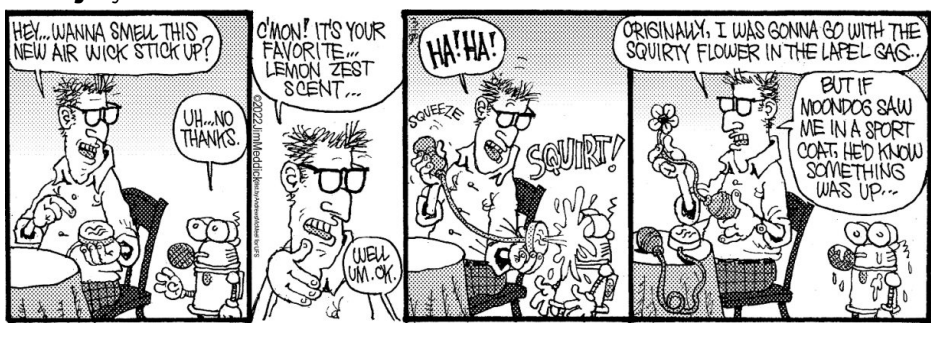
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



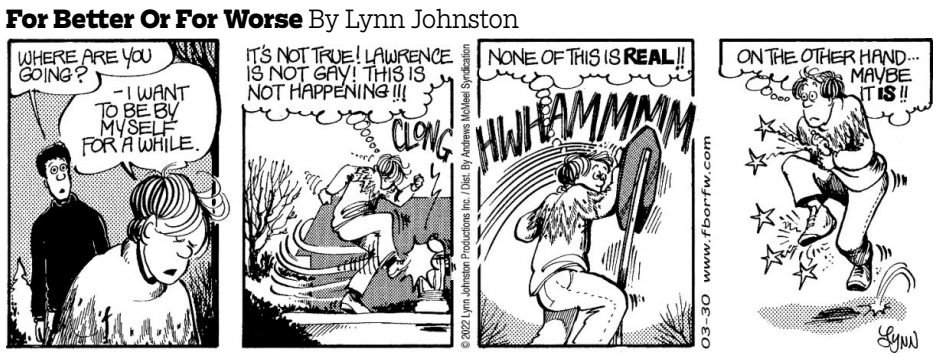
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



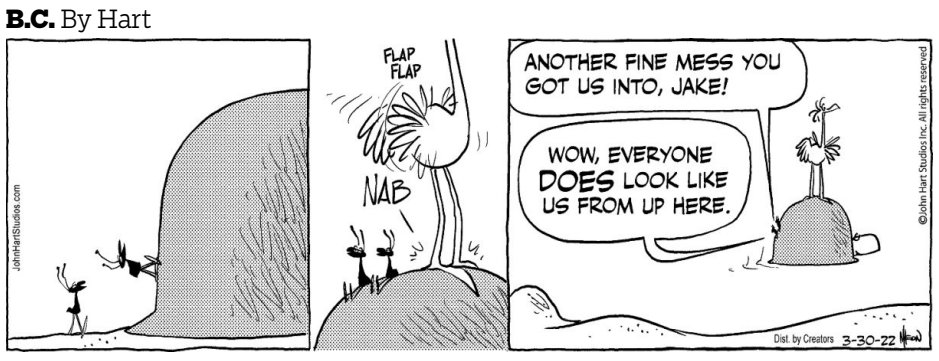
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



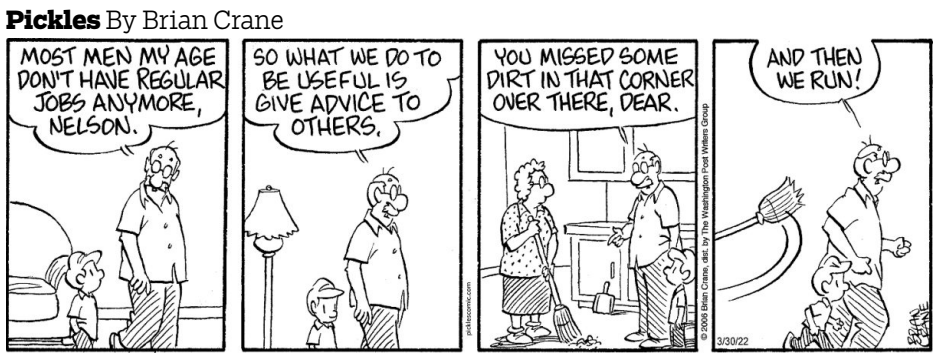
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



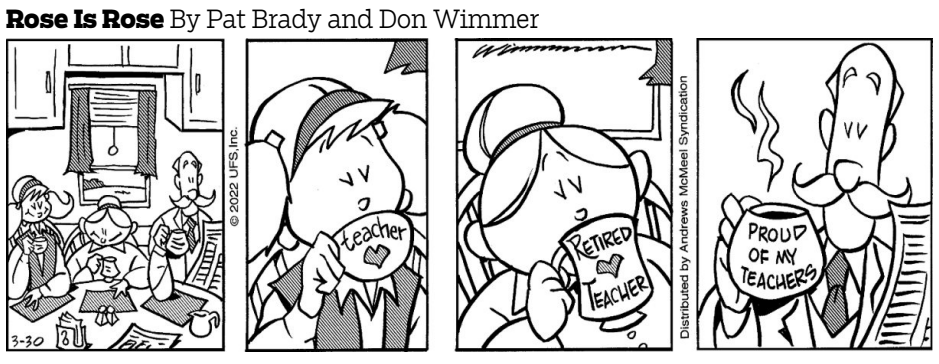
Pickles By Brian Crane



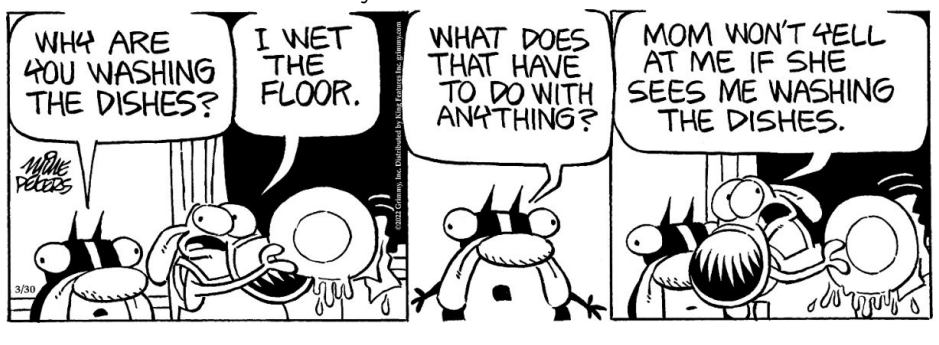
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

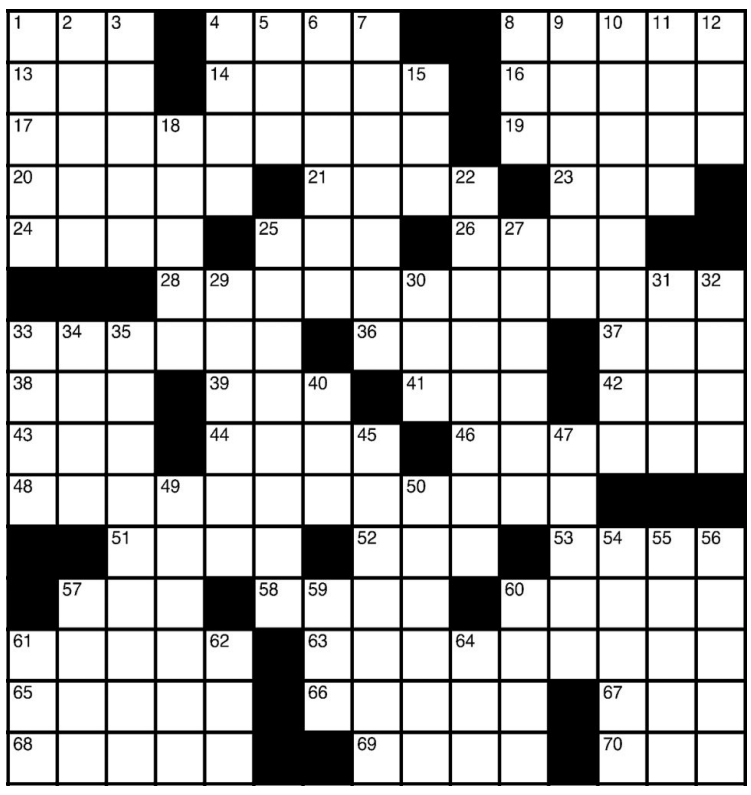
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Yoga aid that helps prevent slipping
4 Weather report stats
8 Recipe amts.
13 In the past
14 Sale rack abbr.
16 Linda Ronstadt's "Blue __"
17 "Misery" co-star
19 Like most tennis shots
20 In full view
21 "My turn to bat"
23 Cruise with a big price tag
24 Equine control
25 Merged comm. giant
26 On
28 Versatile award-winning Indian film star known by his initials "SRK"
33 Starting gun
36 Move slightly ... like a mouse?
37 Hullabaloo
38 Cut (off)
39 Water source
41 Pachuca pronoun
42 URL ender
43 Cycle starter
44 Red letters in a dark theater
46 Fly over Africa
48 Oscar-nominated actress for "Paper Moon" and "Blazing Saddles"
51 Ultimatum word
52 Big noise
53 "Cornflake Girl" singer Tori
57 Obama __
58 Spoken
60 Food recall cause
61 Cop to
63 Swindler ... or, phonetically, what each of three puzzle answers is?
65 Rachmaninoff's instrument
66 Celebrity chef Eddie
67 Yellow or Red follower
68 Group's belief
69 Places to relax
70 Explosive letters

Down

1 Collegian's choice
2 Tequila source
3 "My Cousin Vinny" Oscar winner Marisa
4 Suffix with craigs
5 "LOTR" menace
6 Eerie apparition
7 Two-__: fastballs named for the grip used to throw them
8 Undetermined: Abbr.
9 "Bluebeard's Castle" composer Béla
10 Toady
11 Dickinson work
12 South of France?
15 Animal that sounds fresh
18 Dadaist Max
22 India neighbor
25 Star systems
27 Wallop
29 Monopoly miniatures
30 Sport-__: off-road vehicle
31 Fruit drinks
32 A or E, but not I, O or U
33 Horner's surprise
34 New Rochelle college
35 Doctor Octopus foe
40 Bowler's target
45 Boring
47 Sign into law
49 Friend of Jerry and George
50 Abduct
54 Damp
55 Elizabeth of "WandaVision"
56 Occupy, as a table
57 Actress Falco
59 German gripe
60 Bits of work
61 Fitting
62 Two-year-old, say
64 NHL's Ducks, on scoreboards



By Seth Bisen-Hersh — Tribune Content Agency 3/30/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 7 6 4
♦ K J 8
♣ Q 9 3

WEST
♠ J 10 3
♥ A 5
♦ A 10 4 2
♣ 8 6 5 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 6 5
♥ K 2
♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 4
♥ Q 10 9 8 3
♦ Q 3
♣ A K J

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Planning provides the answer

The question of whether or not to draw trump immediately has no pat answer. The solution depends entirely on what declarer needs to do to eliminate his excess losers.

In general, if declarer has enough tricks in the side suits to assure his contract, trumps should be drawn at once. But if declarer plans to trump his losers, or if extracting the missing trumps will give the defense a leg up in the timing, it may be best to delay drawing them.

Today's hand illustrates the type of thinking that determines declarer's best course of action.

South is in four hearts, and West leads a spade, taken by South with the ace. How should he proceed?

In the great majority of hands where declarer is missing the A-K of trump, his first step should be to eliminate the opposing trumps as quickly as possible. But that would be suicidal in the actual case. If South leads a trump at trick two, he is virtually certain to lose four tricks and go down one.

Let's say East wins the first heart. He returns a second spade, establishing a spade trick for the defense. No matter how declarer continues from here, he must lose two trumps, a diamond and a spade.

South's only real hope is to somehow avoid the spade loser. To do this, he must immediately establish an extra diamond trick in dummy. Accordingly, he should lead the queen of diamonds at trick two. West does best to duck the first diamond, but he is fighting a losing battle. After taking the second diamond with the ace, he returns a spade to declarer's king, but South is now in full control. He leads the jack of clubs to dummy's queen and deposits his losing spade on the king of diamonds. The trumps can then be drawn in comfort, and South finishes with 10 tricks.

Tomorrow: Sylvia strikes again.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HIWLR

SBINO

TGURET

PCAAEL



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TAFFY ZESTY PUZZLE FIBULA
Answer: The selfie taken by the small teddy bear came out — A LITTLE FUZZY

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TODAY'S SUDOKU

			7		3	5		
8	5		2				7	4
							8	1
2			8		4			5
9	1							
5	4				9		6	3
		2		6				
			4		2			

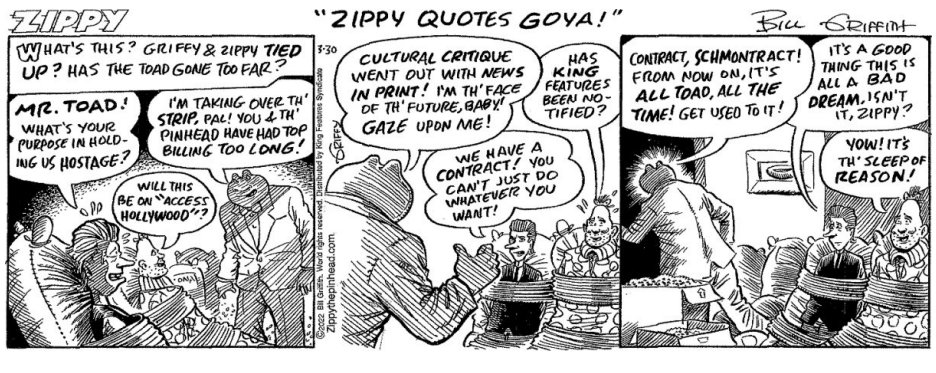
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

8	7	9	1	3	4	5	2	6
2	5	1	9	6	7	4	3	8
4	6	3	2	5	8	9	1	7
6	2	4	3	1	9	8	7	5
3	8	5	4	7	6	1	9	2
1	9	7	8	2	5	6	4	3
9	4	6	7	8	2	3	5	1
5	1	2	6	4	3	7	8	9
7	3	8	5	9	1	2	6	4

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

O	U	T	F	I	T	■	U	S	E	R	■	Q	B	S
T	H	R	I	V	E	■	T	I	L	E	■	A	L	A
O	N	E	V	E	N	T	E	R	M	S	■	T	U	X
H	O	S	E	■	A	I	R	■	■	A	W	A	R	E
■	■	■	■	A	C	T	I	O	N	V	E	R	B	S
D	O	S	A	G	E	■	■	L	I	E	N	■	■	■
A	S	O	N	E	■	S	O	I	L	■	T	R	U	E
W	H	A	T	S	T	H	E	V	E	R	D	I	C	T
N	A	P	E	■	A	I	D	E	■	O	R	A	L	S
■	■	■	N	A	M	E	■	■	N	A	Y	S	A	Y
S	W	A	N	E	E	R	I	V	E	R	■	■	■	■
P	I	X	A	R	■	■	L	P	S	■	B	A	M	A
E	L	I	■	A	L	M	O	S	T	N	E	V	E	R
A	D	O	■	T	A	P	S	■	E	E	R	I	L	Y
R	E	M	■	E	D	G	E	■	D	E	N	A	D	A



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*Example: project cost $10,800. Maximum Loan Term: 108 Mos. Loan Amount: $9,720 Down Payment: $1,080. Monthly Payment: $94.11. Rates and rebates contingent on local utility participation. TERMS and Conditions apply. Offer is for one standard compressor unit and two standard Mitsubishi Ductless Split head units. EnergizeCT offers an immediate consumer rebate of up to $500 depending on equipment selected. Minimum size restrictions and SEER ratings apply. Not available on previous sales. See Daniels Energy representative for complete details. This Mitsubishi offer ends March 31, 2022. ** 3 months FREE offer valid for sales made during the month of March, 2022 only. Maximum value: $500. Daniels Energy CT license S1-385517 HOD#19/ Daniels Propane LLC #846 CT license S1-302857.



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UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hurley picking up pieces in wake of departures

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

STORRS — It's been a painful couple of weeks for coach Dan Hurley, dealing with the sting of UConn's abrupt departure from the NCAA men's basketball tournament. It's been a time of self examination, of questioning every move he's made, or not made, and figuring what to do next.

"Your starting to get over the sadness, the frustration, just feeling really, really terrible that your season ended and you didn't accomplish more," Hurley said Tuesday in a meeting with state reporters at the Werth Center. "That feeling only starts to subside when you get back to practice, when you turn attention to the late signing period. I love watching the NCAA Tournament, men's and women's, but I can't wait 'til the men's is over so we can all start again."

While the UConn women have moved on to their 14th consecutive Final Four, the men are still working to get back to their former position as one of the nation's preeminent programs. The season ended short of expectations with a 70-64 loss to 12th-seeded New Mexico State in the first round on March 17.

Five players are leaving the program. Isaiah Whaley and Tyler Polley have exhausted their eligibility, Tyrese Martin and R.J. Cole are moving on to try for pro careers, both to play in the NABC-Reece's Division I college All-Star Game and the Dos Equis 3-on-3 national championship in New Orle-

Turn to Hurley, Page 4



JESSICA HILL/AP

Diggins moves on

After receiving minimal playing time this season, UConn freshman Rahsool Diggins has decided to enter the transfer portal and move on. The 6-foot-2 guard from Philadelphia will have three years of eligibility remaining.
Page 4

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

UCONN VS. STANFORD
FRIDAY, 9:30 P.M., ESPN

Homeward bound



UConn's Paige Bueckers, left, and Amari DeBerry call out to fans during a send-off rally to the Final Four on Tuesday in Storrs. The Huskies will take on Stanford on Friday in Minneapolis. Minnesota is Bueckers' home state. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Bueckers headed back to Minnesota for the Final Four

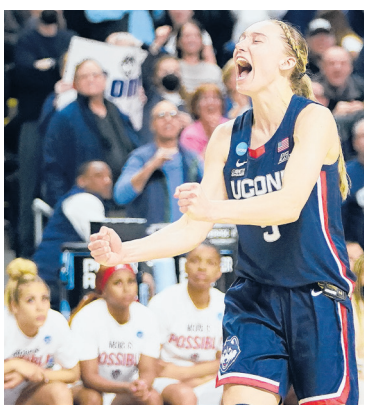
By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

Paige Bueckers and her UConn team are both going back to where it all began - for both of them.

After UConn beat NC State 91-87 in double overtime Monday night in the regional final to advance to its 14th straight Final Four, the Huskies were headed Tuesday to Minneapolis, where the program won its first national championship in 1995.

Bueckers, who had 27 points and was named the Bridgeport Regional's Most Outstanding Player Monday night, will head back to her home state, where she honed her basketball skills at Hopkins High in Minnetonka.

The Final Four will take place at the Target Center, with UConn facing Stanford in the national semifinal game Friday at 9:30 p.m. South Carolina meets Louisville in the early game.



Bueckers reacts in double overtime against North Carolina State during the East Regional final Monday in Bridgeport. FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

"It was obviously extra motivation just to go back home and have the Final Four there and be a part of that experience," Bueckers said Monday night. "But honestly, wherever the location, what gym, what court, I'm just excited to be out there with my sisters and play another game."

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Defending champ Stanford a familiar opponent for UConn

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

A familiar Final Four opponent will be waiting for the UConn women's basketball team at the Target Center in Minneapolis Friday night.

Stanford, the defending national champion, avenged an early season loss to Texas in the Elite Eight game Sunday with a 59-50 win over the Longhorns to advance to its 15th Final Four, where the Cardinal will face UConn at 9:30 p.m. ET on Friday.

Two No. 1 seeds will face off in the early semifinal when South Carolina meets Louisville at 7 p.m.

It's the sixth time Stanford and UConn will play in the Final Four. The first time was in Minneapolis in 1995, when UConn went undefeated and won its first national title. UConn beat Stanford that year 87-60.

Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said the Cardinal (32-3) are ready for the Huskies (29-5).

"I think we match up very well," VanDerveer said during a media call on Tuesday. "We've both played great competition. We're experienced teams. I think we play similar styles. The team that does their thing better will win."

Lexi Hull had 20 points, and point guard Haley Jones, the Most Outstanding Player at last year's Final Four, had 18 points and four free throws at the end of the game to seal the victory over Texas Sunday. Stanford had lost to Texas on Nov. 14, 61-56, on the night the Cardinal celebrated their national championship by handing out rings.

Stanford has won 23 straight, with its last loss coming to South

Turn to Stanford, Page 4

GOLF TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Bubba time: Fan favorite Watson commits to play in this year's event

Staff report

Three-time Travelers Championship winner Bubba Watson has committed to play in the 2022 PGA Tour event, the tournament announced on Tuesday.

Watson's first PGA Tour victory came at the 2010 Travelers Championship, when he needed a playoff to beat Corey Pavin and Scott Verplank. He also won in 2015 and 2018 and is looking to become just the second player to win the event four times. Billy Casper won in 1963, 1965, 1968 and 1973.

"There might not be a current player on the PGA Tour more synonymous with the Travelers Championship than Bubba," said Travelers Championship tournament director Nathan Grube. "He's obviously done well here, but he's also embraced this community. Bubba will have a lot of people rooting for him at TPC River Highlands this year."

Including his three Travelers wins, Watson has won 12 times on the PGA Tour, including two major championships. Watson won the Masters in 2012 and 2014. He also won the Genesis Open three times and the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play in 2018.

Off the course, Watson has supported the local charities tied to the Travelers. In 2016, he donated $100,000 to the Bruce Edwards Foundation Benefit Dinner for ALS research. After winning in 2018, Watson donated $200,000 to The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, and when a fire destroyed four buildings at camp headquarters in Ashford last year, Watson donated $25,000 for rebuilding efforts.

Turn to Travelers, Page 6

Did you know?

Manufacturers are not obligated by U.S. law to list all ingredients in consumer products. Products that are labeled "green" do not necessarily mean they are safer. Do a little research on the product from a reliable source.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn WBB: NCAA Final Four vs. Stanford, Friday, 9:30 p.m.; NCAA Championship (if necessary) vs. TBD, Sunday, 8 p.m.
Celtics: Heat, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Pacers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Wizards, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Knicks: Hornets, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Cavaliers, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Magic, Sunday, 6 p.m.
Nets: Bucks, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Hawks, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Bruins: Devils, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Blue Jackets, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Red Wings, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Islanders, Friday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at W-B/Scranton, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Belleville, Friday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Braves at Red Sox. (Live) MLB, NESN
4 p.m.: Coastal Carolina at Wake Forest. (Live) ACC
4 p.m.: Mariners at Cubs. (Live) MLB
7 p.m.: Southern Illinois-Edwardsville at Missouri. (Live) SEC
BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.: Heat at Celtics. (Live), ESPN, NBCSB
7:30 p.m.: Hornets at Knicks. (Live), MSG
10:05 p.m.: Suns at Warriors. (Live) ESPN
GOLF
9:30 a.m.: Asian Tour Golf Delhi Golf Club Open, Third Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF
11:30 a.m.: Asian Tour Golf Delhi Golf Club Open, Final Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: Jets at Sabres. (Live) SPRTNET
7:30 p.m.: Rangers at Red Wings. (Live), TNT
10 p.m.: Golden Knights at Kraken. (Live) TNT
SOCCER
8:30 p.m.: FIFA Eliminatorias Copa Mundial México vs El Salvador. (Live) UNI
9 p.m.: FIFA World Cup Qualifying Costa Rica vs United States. (Live) CBSSN
10 p.m.: FIFA World Cup Qualifying Panama vs Canada. (Live) SPRTNET
SOFTBALL
7 p.m.: South Carolina at Clemson. (Live) ACC
TENNIS
1 p.m.: ATP/WTA Tennis Miami Open, ATP Quarterfinal 1 & 2, WTA Quarterfinal 3 & 4. (Live) TENNIS
7 p.m.: ATP/WTA Tennis Miami Open, WTA Quarterfinal 4, ATP Quarterfinal 2. (Live) TENNIS

YANKEES

Severino's next spring start gets pushed back

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — The Yankees said they are being extra cautious with Luis Severino because of his recent history.

Severino is penciled in as the Yankees' second starter of the season. The right-hander experienced "general soreness" after his start in Clearwater on Friday, so the Yankees decided to push him back and have him throw a bullpen on his fifth day rather than face the Blue Jays in a spring training game Wednesday night.

"He was a little sore coming out of his last one. So we just want to push it back a little bit," Aaron Boone said Tuesday. "And then if we push it back and pitch him we get in a situation where we're pitching him on the ninth day [in the regular season] or pitching him short to get another outing in so we just decided to go bullpen and then he'll pitch Saturday.

"Because then he pitches here, game two [of the regular season]," the Yankee manager added. "So he'll bullpen tomorrow, pitch Saturday, and now we'll line him up to go [April 8]."

Boone said his tentative rotation is obviously ace Gerrit Cole on Opening Day April 7 at Yankee Stadium against the Red Sox. Severino for April 8 against the Red Sox and lefty Jordan Montgomery on April 9 in the series finale. Jameson Taillon will start the series against the Blue Jays at the Stadium April 11. Nestor Cortes is penciled in as the fifth starter. With a scheduled off day between the first and second days, the Yankees could go back to Cole for the fifth game and push Cortes back to the sixth game.


Yankees starting pitcher Luis Severino walks onto the field before a spring training game against the Phillies on Friday in Clearwater, Florida. **LYNNE SLADKY/AP**

That all depends, obviously, on the next turn through the rotation going smoothly.

"With a shortened spring, we're just making sure we're checking all the boxes and stuff," Boone said. "That's kind of the plan right now, but again, I don't want to announce anything as official but that's kind of how it's lining up."

Of course, that all depends on the Yankees getting through the next week healthy. The concern about Severino is natural considering his injury history. He missed most of the 2019 season with a lat tear and all of the COVID-abbreviated 2020 season after Tommy John surgery to repair a torn ulnar collateral ligament. His return in 2021 was delayed by a hamstring injury and a tight shoulder.

This soreness stemmed from him ramping up his workload on Friday, Boone said. Severino struggled, throwing 49 pitches against the Phillies that day.

"I feel like it is general and us being cautious," Boone said. "But anytime I say that about a pitcher, especially one of his stature and what he's been through, yeah, it gives you a little bit [of pause]. ... I feel like it's something that resolves itself though."

Severino admitted he was having a hard time finding his release point working out of the stretch. That resulted in allowing three runs on four hits, walking four and striking out none in 1.2 innings of work. Severino said he felt physically fine on the mound after the work Friday and felt like he had time to work out the fine tuning he needed before the season.

YANKEES NOTES

Higashioka once modeled his swing after Donaldson's — now they are teammates

New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — Back in 2015, Kyle Higashioka felt like his offense was going nowhere. The catcher looked at the big leagues to find someone who he could imitate to remodel his swing. The American League MVP that year was a slight infielder who showed incredible power, so Higashioka started taking part of Josh Donaldson's swing to incorporate into his own.

Now, Donaldson is just four lockers down in the Yankees' spring training clubhouse and Higashioka is taking advantage of it.

"I realized I couldn't do the huge leg lift and all that stuff, but the underlying principles were the same. So mechanically speaking, he kind of speaks the same language as me," the Yankees catcher said Tuesday after hitting his fourth home run in the last three games. "I will talk to him about the approach, it's like where he really excels. . . There's not many guys in the game that kind of think about the at-bats in the way that he does and about picking and choosing times to do damage and just everything. He's just so smart mentally about that.

"It's just such a great asset to have."

Higashioka has hit four homers in his last 10 at-bats. His two-run shot Tuesday helped the Yankees to a 14-2 win over the Phillies at George M. Steinbrenner Field. He's 7-for-15 with six RBI in six games overall this spring, his first that he has come in as the everyday catcher after the Yankees traded away Gary Sanchez.

Catching up: Ben Rortvedt, the young catcher who the Yankees acquired in the trade that brought in Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Donaldson, has progressed from dry swings to hitting off a tee. Rortvedt, who came over with a strained right oblique, caught his second bullpen since getting shut down.

The catcher is unlikely to be ready for Opening Day, but at this pace he should not be that far off. ... Marwin Gonzalez continues to make a strong case for a spot on the roster. The super utility player, who started at first base, homered again, going 3-for-4 on Tuesday with four RBI.

METS

Club leans toward starting Marte on Opening Day

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

JUPITER, Fla. — All signs are pointing to Starling Marte being Michael Conforto's successor in right field.

Days after Marte impressed in right field, a position he has yet to play in a real big-league game, the Mets put him right back there for a night game against the Marlins on Tuesday. Marte has spent 10 seasons in MLB as a left fielder and center fielder, primarily playing the latter since 2018.

When asked whether Marte will be the Mets' starting right fielder on Opening Day, manager Buck Showalter gave the most definitive answer thus far on the subject.

"Right field, that's where we're leaning," said Showalter. "Fits the best."

That means the Mets' Opening Day alignment is expected to be: Mark Canha in left, Brandon Nimmo in center, and Marte in right.

Though the Amazin's will begin the season with that arrangement does not mean they will stick to it the entire year. Showalter has emphasized all three outfielders' versatility and the skipper is keen on using that flexibility to his advantage, depending on situations like matchups and potential injuries.

Marte played in right for the first time on Sunday afternoon against the Cardinals, with Jacob deGrom and Max Scherzer on the hill. That was also his Grapefruit League debut, which was just over a week behind his teammates because Marte was dealing with left oblique soreness to begin camp. Marte made a couple of nice catches in right that he later described as "wasn't easy" as the outfielder continues to get familiar with a new corner position.

To the eye, Marte certainly made those catches look easy. On one play, the two-time Gold Glove award winner sprinted over 100 feet to get to the ball. Now, with exactly a week until the Mets break camp for the regular season, Marte is expected to get the majority of the rest of his spring training reps in right field.

"Starling is starting to understand the angles of the ball coming off the bat out there," Showalter said. "He's going to get a look at it."

RED SOX

Story details 'craziest week of my life'

By Steve Hewitt
Boston Herald

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Less than 48 hours after being introduced as the newest Red Sox, Trevor Story had another life-changing event to attend to. And he didn't have much time to get there.

Halfway across the country, Story's wife Mallie was ready to give birth to their first child. He got the call on Thursday night.

"My wife called me and said, 'This thing might be happening,' " Story said.

Story didn't sleep at all Thursday night and got on the earliest flight possible on Friday morning from Fort Myers to his home in the Dallas area. Everything was almost a blur after that.

"It was like a movie," Story said. "I was speeding to the hospital and running through the lobby and straight to the delivery room and he came very quick after that."

The movie had a happy ending. Story made it in time for the delivery of he and Mallie's healthy baby boy, completing an exhausting rollercoaster week for the new Red Sox second baseman, who returned to camp at JetBlue Park on Monday after spending the weekend at home.

"It's been definitely the craziest week of my life," Story said Tuesday morning. "But all just amazing things that we'll look back and say this was a great week and celebrate that. It's been a whirlwind, just trying to hang on and get ready for the season. ...

"It's such a special moment to be there for our first born child. It was tough leaving, but my family is just so understanding of what's going and they've been great about it. Now it's time to get ready for baseball."


New Red Sox shortstop Trevor Story speaks to the media March 23 at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers, Florida. **STEVE HELBER/AP**

Story is confident he'll be ready for the start of the season, despite a late start with his new team and needing to leave for three days. As soon as he returned Monday, the Red Sox put Story to work in a simulated game at JetBlue Park, where he took seven at-bats — most of them against ace Nathan Eovaldi — all in consecutive innings.

The sim game went progressively well for Story. He struck out in each of his first two at-bats before drawing a walk against Matt Barnes, though he was shortly after picked off at first base. But his next at-bat, he tripled to right off Eovaldi.

"I got seven at-bats, right back-to-back consecutively, so it was good in that sense to get in the flow and just kind of getting my timing and my tempo down," Story said. "I feel as the at-bats went on that I got better and started making better contact. I think more than anything, I feel like I'm seeing the ball well. For me at this stage, that's really what I'm looking for. I know the hard contact and the good swings will come, so I feel good about it."

Story isn't concerned about his readiness for Opening Day next Thursday at Yankee Stadium, though manager Alex Cora said over the weekend that it's likely he'll see some off days at the start of the season as he works his way back. He's expected to make his Red Sox spring debut on Wednesday at JetBlue Park against the Braves.

"I feel really good," Story said. "I take a lot of pride in my offseason work and doing the right things for my body to stay ready. I think it's going to pay big dividends now. So yeah, I think my work in the offseason is going to flow right into spring. Obviously it's shortened, but I know I'll be ready."

RED SOX NOTES

Team plans to stay in shape by focusing on positional flexibility

By Peter Abraham
Boston Globe

BRADENTON, Fla. — That right fielder who made a nice running catch for the Red Sox in the fourth inning Tuesday was Christian Arroyo, who has spent his entire professional career as an infielder.

Two other career infielders, Jonathan Araúz and Bobby Dalbec, will start learning some rudimentary outfield skills from bench coach Will Venable on Wednesday.

"We have to prepare ourselves for anything," manager Alex Cora said. "You never know what can happen in a game. Getting Bobby some reps there is good."

Dalbec started at third base in Tuesday's 6-2 loss to the Pirates. He's been a corner infielder since being drafted in 2016, but the Sox trust him at second base even though he doesn't look the part at 6-foot-4, 225 pounds.

"I'm open to whatever they want," said Dalbec, who understands that defensive versatility can lead to more at-bats.

For now, Dalbec is likely to be the Opening Day first baseman, and if he runs with the job he won't have to worry about smacking into the Green Monster. But Cora has come to value options after all the juggling the Sox had to do last season.

Cora also identified Arroyo and Christian Vazquez as potential backups at first base. If he makes the team, Travis Shaw would have the job.

Vazquez has played 65 innings at first base in his career. That's a wealth of experience these days.

Pitcher problems: That Nick Pivetta allowed two solo home runs didn't bother him. That happens at small, windswept spring training ballparks.

The three walks in four innings were the problem.

"Walks are frustrating," he said. "I wasn't my best today."

That Pivetta pitched into the fifth inning and threw 77 pitches was all that mattered to Cora. His No. 2 starter has one more game before facing the Yankees on April 9 when it counts.

"Hopefully we can be a little bit cleaner," the manager said.

Left-hander Jake Diekman, who was signed to a two-year, $8 million deal this month, continued to struggle. He hit a batter leading off the bottom of the sixth, walked another with one out, then gave up a home run to the No. 9 hitter, Kevin Newman.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	65	44	15	6	94	264	191
Tampa Bay	65	41	18	6	88	215	182
Toronto	65	41	19	5	87	239	197
Boston	65	41	19	5	87	200	174
Detroit	66	26	32	8	60	189	253
Buffalo	67	24	33	10	58	184	237
Ottawa	65	23	36	6	52	170	213
Montreal	66	18	37	11	47	169	247
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	66	44	15	7	95	222	157
Pittsburgh	67	40	17	10	90	225	179
N.Y. Rangers	66	42	19	5	89	203	172
Washington	68	37	21	10	84	225	197
Columbus	66	32	29	5	69	216	246
N.Y. Islanders	64	28	27	9	65	174	178
Philadelphia	66	21	34	11	53	171	233
New Jersey	66	24	37	5	53	203	239

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	66	46	14	6	98	253	184
Minnesota	64	40	20	4	84	237	202
St. Louis	65	36	20	9	81	230	188
Nashville	66	38	24	4	80	217	194
Dallas	64	36	25	3	75	189	192
Winnipeg	67	32	25	10	74	209	207
Chicago	67	24	33	10	58	184	235
Arizona	66	20	41	5	45	168	240
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Calgary	65	40	17	8	88	231	160
Los Angeles	68	36	23	9	81	196	194
Edmonton	67	37	25	5	79	233	216
Vegas	68	36	28	4	76	216	206
Vancouver	68	32	27	9	73	193	195
San Jose	65	29	28	8	66	173	204
Anaheim	67	27	29	11	65	189	218
Seattle	66	21	39	6	48	176	233

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina at Tampa Bay, late
Montreal at Florida, late
N.Y. Islanders at Columbus, late
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, late
Toronto at Boston, late
Ottawa at Nashville, late
Philadelphia at Minnesota, late
Colorado at Calgary, late
Dallas at Anaheim, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Winnipeg at Buffalo, 7p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9:30p.m.
San Jose at Arizona, 10p.m.
St. Louis at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Vegas at Seattle, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Florida, 7p.m.
Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 7p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Toronto, 7p.m.
Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Los Angeles at Calgary, 9p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Nashville at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Ottawa at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 9p.m.
Vegas at Seattle, 10p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 10:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 6, Washington 1
St. Louis 4, Vancouver 1
Buffalo 6, Chicago 5
Edmonton 6, Arizona 1
Seattle 6, Los Angeles 1

TENNIS

MIAMI OPEN
At Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla., outdoors-hardcourt
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#1 Daniil Medvedev d. Jenson Brooksby, 7-5, 6-1.
#2 Alexander Zverev d. Thanasi Kokkinakis, 6-4, 6-4.
#6 Casper Ruud d. #10 Cameron Norrie, 6-3, 6-4.
#9 Jannik Sinner d. Nick Kyrgios, 7-6(3), 6-3.
Francisco Cerundolo d. Frances Tiafoe, 6-7(2), 7-6(3), 6-2.
Hubert Hurkacz d. Lloyd Harris, 7-6(3), 6-2.
Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. Carlos Alcaraz, late
Taylor Fritz vs. Miomir Kecmanovic, late

WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
Belinda Bencic d. Daria Saville, 6-1, 6-2.
Naomi Osaka d. Danielle Collins, 6-2, 6-1.

ANDALUCIA OPEN
At Club de Tennis Puente Romano, Marbella, Spain, outdoors-hard
MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
Federico Gaio d. Pol Martin Tiffon, 6-1, 1-0, retired
Roberto Carballes-Baena d. Nikola Milojevic, 6-3, 7-6(1).
Manuel Guinard d. Javier Barranco Cosano, 6-2, 7-6(3).
Pablo Andujar d. Andrea Pellegrino, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.
Nicolas Alvarez Varona d. Lukas Klein, 7-6(5), 6-4.
Pedro Cachin d. Dominic Thiem, 6-3, 6-4.
Elias Ymer d. Stan Wawrinka, 6-2, 6-4.
Jaume Munar d. Alexander Shevchenko, 6-2, 6-2.
Norbert Gombos d. Carlos Gimeno Valero, 6-4, 6-1.
Bernabe Zapata miralles d. Raul Brancaccio, 6-3, 6-4.
Carlos Taberner d. Carlos Gomez-Herrera, 6-4, 7-5.
Alex Molcan d. Franco Agamenone, 6-3, 7-6(3).

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
Varvara Gracheva d. Ekaterine Gorgodze, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.
Arantxa Rus d. Sara Errani, 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-3.
Rebeka Masarova d. Julia Grabher, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.
Ocean Dodin d. Lesia Tsurenko, 6-4, 7-6(5).
Martina Trevisan d. Kristina Mladenovic, 7-6(5), 6-0.
Danka Kovinic d. Mandy Minella, 6-7(2), 6-2, 7-5.
Tamara Korpatsch d. Lin Zhu, 6-1, 7-6(5).
Ana Bogdan d. Donna Vekic, 6-1, 6-0.
Mayar Sherif d. Anna Blinkova, 6-3, 6-4.
Clara Burel d. Andrea Lazaro Garcia, 6-4, 6-4.

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL — THURSDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Fresno State	3	Coastal Carolina

SATURDAY

Kansas	4½	Villanova
Duke	4	North Carolina

ODDS TO WIN WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNEY

South Carolina	2-3	UConn	2-1
Stanford	4-1	Louisville	8-1

source: bovada.lv

NBA — WEDNESDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Washington	4	(222)	Orlando
Dallas	3½	(214)	at Cleveland
Denver	9½	(232)	at Indiana
at Boston	4½	(214½)	Miami
at Toronto	3	(228½)	Minnesota
Charlotte	1½	(226)	at New York
Sacramento	2½	(233)	at Houston
Atlanta	11½	(228)	at Okla. City
Memphis	6½	(231)	at San Antonio
Phoenix	6½	(224½)	at Golden St.
New Orleans	12	(228½)	at Portland

NHL — WEDNESDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Buffalo	off	Winnipeg	off
at Detroit	off	NY Rangers	off
at Edmonton	-192	Los Angeles	+158
San Jose	-150	Arizona	+140
Vegas	-170	at Seattle	+140
St. Louis	-128	at Vancouver	+106

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	46	28	.622	—
Boston	47	29	.618	—
Toronto	43	32	.573	3 ½
Brooklyn	39	36	.520	7 ½
New York	34	42	.447	13
SOUTHEAST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
y-Miami	48	28	.632	—
Charlotte	39	37	.513	9
Atlanta	38	37	.507	9 ½
Washington	32	42	.432	15
Orlando	20	56	.263	28
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Milwaukee	46	28	.622	—
Chicago	43	32	.573	3 ½
Cleveland	42	33	.560	4 ½
Indiana	25	51	.329	22
Detroit	20	55	.267	26 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Memphis	53	23	.697	—
Dallas	46	29	.613	6 ½
New Orleans	32	43	.427	20 ½
San Antonio	31	44	.413	21 ½
Houston	20	56	.263	33
NORTHWEST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Utah	45	30	.600	—
Denver	45	31	.592	½
Minnesota	43	33	.566	2 ½
Portland	27	48	.360	18
Oklahoma City	22	53	.293	23
PACIFIC	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
z-Phoenix	61	14	.813	—
Golden State	48	28	.632	13 ½
L.A. Clippers	36	39	.480	25
L.A. Lakers	31	43	.419	29 ½
Sacramento	27	49	.355	34 ½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division; z-conference

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Chicago at Washington, late
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, late
Detroit at Brooklyn, late
L.A. Lakers at Dallas, late
Utah at L.A. Clippers, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Dallas at Cleveland, 7p.m.
Denver at Indiana, 7p.m.
Orlando at Washington, 7p.m.
Charlotte at New York, 7:30p.m.
Miami at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Atlanta at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Sacramento at Houston, 8p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
New Orleans at Portland, 10p.m.
Phoenix at Golden State, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 8p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 10p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland 107, Orlando 101
Atlanta 132, Indiana 123
Denver 113, Charlotte 109
Miami 123, Sacramento 100
New York 109, Chicago 104
Toronto 115, Boston 112 (OT)
San Antonio 123, Houston 120
Memphis 123, Golden State 95
Oklahoma City 134, Portland 131 (OT)

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	3	0	1	10	7	2
Columbus	2	0	2	8	10	5
Chicago	2	0	2	8	5	1
Orlando City	2	1	2	8	5	3
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	1	7	8	4
Atlanta	2	1	1	7	8	8
D.C. United	2	2	0	6	5	4
Charlotte FC	2	3	0	6	6	7
Cincinnati	2	3	0	6	5	10
New York City FC	1	2	1	4	4	4
New England	1	2	1	4	6	8
Toronto FC	1	2	1	4	5	8
CF Montréal	0	3	1	1	5	11
Inter Miami CF	0	3	1	1	2	10
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
Los Angeles FC	3	0	1	10	9	2
Real Salt Lake	3	1	1	10	6	4
Minnesota United	2	0	2	8	4	2
Austin FC	2	1	1	7	11	3
FC Dallas	2	1	1	7	7	3
Colorado	2	1	1	7	6	4
LA Galaxy	2	2	0	6	4	4
Kansas City	2	3	0	6	4	8
Portland	1	1	3	6	6	8
Houston	1	1	2	5	3	3
Seattle	1	2	1	4	4	5
Nashville	1	2	1	4	3	5
San Jose	0	3	1	1	4	9
Vancouver	0	3	1	1	2	9

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
FC Dallas at Chicago, 3:30p.m.
CF Montréal at Cincinnati, 4p.m.
New York City FC at Toronto FC, 4p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 6p.m.
Atlanta at D.C. United, 7:30p.m.
New York at New England, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Orlando City, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte FC at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Austin FC at San Jose, 7:30p.m.
Houston at Miami, 8p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Sporting KC at Vancouver, 8p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Colorado, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCH
LA Galaxy at Portland, 4:30p.m.

NWSL CHALLENGE CUP
WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
Gotham FC at Orlando, 7p.m.
Gotham FC at Orlando, 7p.m.
North Carolina at Washington, 7:30p.m.
North Carolina at Washington, 7:30p.m.
Louisville at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
Kansas City at Houston, 8:30p.m.
Angel City FC at Portland, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Louisville at Kansas City, 3p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 8p.m..
Angel City FC at San Diego FC, 4p.m.
OL Reign at Portland, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
North Carolina at Gotham FC, 3p.m.
Orlando at Washington, 4p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	29	22	4	3	68	18	70
Liverpool	29	21	6	2	75	20	69
Chelsea	28	17	8	3	57	19	59
Arsenal	28	17	3	8	44	31	54
Tottenham	29	16	3	10	47	36	51
Man United	29	14	8	7	48	40	50
West Ham	30	14	6	10	49	39	48
Wolverhampton	30	14	4	12	31	26	46
Aston Villa	29	11	3	15	41	40	36
Leicester	27	10	6	11	42	46	36
Southampton	29	8	11	10	36	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	7	13	9	39	38	34
Brighton	29	7	12	10	26	36	33
Newcastle	29	7	10	12	32	49	31
Brentford	30	8	6	16	33	47	30
Leeds	30	7	8	15	34	67	29
Everton	27	7	4	16	29	47	25
Watford	29	6	4	19	29	55	22
Burnley	27	3	12	12	22	38	21
Norwich	29	4	5	20	18	63	17

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Liverpool vs. Watford, 7:30a.m.
Brighton vs. Norwich, 10a.m.
Burnley vs. Man City, 10a.m.
Chelsea vs. Brentford, 10a.m.
Leeds vs. Southampton, 10a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m.
Man United vs. Leicester, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
West Ham vs. Everton, 9a.m.
Tottenham vs. Newcastle, 11:30a.m.

MONDAY'S MATCH
Crystal Palace vs. Arsenal, 3p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE
q-Wednesday: at Costa Rica, 9 p.m.
q-World Cup qualifying

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT
TUESDAY'S SEMIFINALS
Madison Square Garden, New York City
Xavier 84, Saint Bonaventure 77
Washington St. vs. Texas A&M, late
THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Xavier vs. TXA&M/Wash St., 7p.m.

THE BASKETBALL CLASSIC
THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP
Coastal Carolina vs. Fresno Stte, 7p.m.
MONDAY'S SEMIFINALS
Coastal Carolina 69, S. Alabama 68 (OT)
Fresno State 67, Southern Utah 48

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT
WICHITA REGIONAL
At Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, Kan.
Monday, Regional Championship
Louisville 62, Michigan 50
BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL
Total Mortgage, Bridgeport, Conn.
Monday, Regional Championship
UConn 91, N.C. State 87 (2OT)
FINAL FOUR
Target Center, Minneapolis
Friday's National Semifinals
South Carolina vs. Louisville, 7p.m.
Stanford vs. UConn, 9:30p.m.

WOMEN'S NIT
Francis S. Levien Gymnasium, New York
WEDNESDAY'S SEMIFINALS
Seton Hall vs. Middle Tennessee, TBA
THURSDAY'S SEMIFINAL
S. Dakota St. vs. UCLA, 8p.m.
Saturday's Championship, TBA
MONDAY'S QUARTERFINALS
Middle Tennessee 73, Toledo 71 (OT)
Seton Hall 78, Columbia 75

MEN'S NCAA TOURNEY LEADERS

POINTS	SCHL	OPP	PT
Tanner Holden	Wright St	Bryant	37
Teddy Allen	N Mex St	UConn	37
Jamaree Bouyea	S.F.	St State	36
Drew Timme	Gonzaga	Ga. St.	32
Caleb Love	UNC	UCLA	30
RJ Davis	UNC	Baylor	30
Oscar Tshiebwe	Kentucky	St Peter's	30
Ben. Mathurin	Arizona	TCU	30
T Jackson-Davis	Indiana	Wyoming	29
Cormac Ryan	N. Dame	Alabama	29
Peter Kiss	Bryant	Wright St	28
Brady Manek	UNC	Marqtte	28
Christian Koloko	Arizona	TCU	28
Adam Flagler	Baylor	UNC	27
Hunter Dickinson	Michigan	Tenn.	27
Daryl Banks	St Peter's	Kentucky	27
Joey Hauser	Mich St	Davidson	27
Kam. McGusty	Miami	Iowa St	27
Paul Atkinson	N. Dame	Rutgers	26
Brady Manek	UNC	Baylor	26
Drew Timme	Gonzaga	Arkansas	25
Kyler Edwards	Houston	UAB	25
Johnny Davis	Wisc.	Colgate	25
Drew Timme	Gonzaga	Memphis	25
Arthur Kaluma	Creightn	Kansas	24
Jacob Gilyard	Richmd	Iowa	24
Caleb McConnell	Rutgers	N. Dame	23
And. Nembhard	Gonzaga	Memphis	23
Marcus Carr	Texas	Purdue	23
Caleb Love	UNC	Marqtte	23
Eli Brooks	Michigan	Tenn.	23
Malaki Branham	Ohio St	Villanova	23
Remy Martin	Kansas	Provdnce	23
Tyrese Hunter	Iowa St	LSU	23
Chuck O'Bannon	TCU	Arizona	23

source: basketball-reference.com

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.
Kansas City	7	3	.700
Los Angeles	7	4	.636
Houston	6	4	.600
Texas	6	4	.600
Boston	7	5	.583
Seattle	5	4	.556
Cleveland	6	5	.545
Chicago	6	6	.500
Baltimore	5	5	.500
Toronto	5	5	.500
New York	5	6	.455
Detroit	4	5	.444
Minnesota	4	8	.333
Tampa Bay	3	6	.333
Oakland	2	7	.222
NATIONAL LEAGUE	**W**	**L**	**PCT.**
Atlanta	6	2	.750
Miami	6	3	.667
Chicago	7	4	.636
New York	5	3	.625
Cincinnati	6	4	.600
Philadelphia	6	4	.600
Pittsburgh	5	4	.556
St. Louis	5	4	.556
Colorado	5	6	.455
Milwaukee	4	5	.444
San Diego	4	5	.444
Arizona	5	7	.417
San Francisco	4	7	.364
Los Angeles	2	5	.286
Washington	1	9	.100

Standings do not reflect ties

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Houston 3, Washington 1
Pittsburgh 6, Boston 2
Tampa Bay 4, Minnesota 2
N.Y. Yankees 14, Philadelphia 2
Chicago Cubs 3, Arizona 2
Cleveland 10, Milwaukee 3
San Francisco 11, San Diego 6
Cincinnati 7, Texas 1
L.A. Angels 8, Colorado 2
Kansas City 11, Seattle 4
N.Y. Mets vs. Miami, late
Oakland vs. L.A. Dodgers, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Tampa Bay vs. Baltimore, 1:05p.m.
Atlanta vs. Boston, 1:05p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, 1:05p.m.
Detroit vs. Philadelphia, 1:05p.m.
St. Louis vs. Washington, 1:05p.m.
Seattle vs. Chi. Cubs, 4:05p.m.
Texas vs. Chi. White Sox, 4:05p.m.
Cincinnati vs. Oakland, 4:05p.m.
San Francisco vs. Kansas City, 4:05p.m.
Milwaukee vs. San Diego, 4:10p.m.
Arizona vs. Colorado, 4:10p.m.
Houston vs. N.Y. Mets, 6:10p.m.
Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees, 6:35p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Cleveland, 9:05p.m.

GOLF

LPGA SEASON RANKINGS

RACE TO CME GLOBE	EV	PTS
1 Danielle Kang	5	986.083
2 Nanna Koerstz Madsen	5	917.000
3 Brooke M. Henderson	5	758.833
4 Atthaya Thitikul	5	734.750
5 Lydia Ko	4	668.750
6 Jin Young Ko	2	648.333
7 Leona Maguire	5	647.654
8 Celine Boutier	5	611.500
9 Xiyu Lin	5	580.000
10 Lexi Thompson	3	445.500
11 Yuka Saso	5	416.339
12 Amy Yang	5	415.533
13 In Gee Chun	5	409.050
14 Minjee Lee	3	361.825
15 Sarah Schmelzel	5	351.607
16 Gaby Lopez	6	331.500
17 Jeongeun Lee	5	326.550
18 Charley Hull	4	325.500
19 Pajaree Anannarukarn	6	318.560
20 Patty Tavatanakit	5	314.129
21 Stacy Lewis	6	298.067
22 Nasa Hataoka	6	265.881
23 Na Rin An	3	265.000
24 Nelly Korda	3	252.500
25 Inbee Park	5	238.000

ROLEX RANKINGS	COUNTRY	AVG
1 Jin Young Ko	S. Korea	10.16
2 Nelly Korda	U.S.	8.86
3 Lydia Ko	N. Zealand	6.27
4 Minjee Lee	Australia	5.26
5 Atthaya Thitikul	Thailand	5.24
6 Inbee Park	S. Korea	5.18
7 Danielle Kang	U.S.	5.08
8 Sei Young Kim	S. Korea	4.90
9 Nasas Hataoka	Japan	4.75
10 Brooke M. Henderson	Canada	4.74
11 Yuka Saso	Japan	4.64
12 Lexi Thompson	U.S.	4.53
13 Hyo-Joo Kim	S. Korea	4.09
14 Patty Tavatanakit	Thailand	3.75
15 Anna Nordqvist	Sweden	3.29
16 Jeong Eun Lee	S. Korea	3.28
17 Ayaka Furue	Japan	3.28
18 Celine Boutier	France	3.17
19 Nanna K. Madesen	Denmark	3.17
20 Leona Maguire	Ireland	3.14
21 Min Ji Park	S. Korea	3.07
22 Mone Inami	Japan	3.07
23 Lizette Salas	U.S.	2.92
24 Georgia Hall	England	2.90
25 Ally Ewing	U.S.	2.84

source: lpga.com



Travis Kelce (87) celebrates with teammates after the Chiefs defeated the Bills on the opening possession of overtime in the AFC divisional playoff on Jan. 23. **CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP**

NFL

Owners approve rule change for OT in playoffs

Each team will get chance for at least 1 possession, but not in regular season games

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — The NFL is changing its sometimes controversial overtime rules to guarantee each side gets the ball in the playoffs.

Concerned that the coin toss to begin the extra period has too much impact on postseason game results, the owners voted Tuesday to permanently approve a proposal presented by the Colts and Eagles.

Beginning this season, if the team possessing the ball first in overtime scores a touchdown on that series, the opponent still gets a possession. In recent seasons, that touchdown would have ended the game.

That second possession of overtime would extend beyond the initial 15-minute period if needed. Should that team tie the game, it then would become sudden death.

Rich McKay, the Falcons president and chairman of the competition committee, admitted that Kansas City's victory in January over Buffalo that came on the first series of OT, was a factor in the balloting by owners. He said that was well beyond the required 24 votes, but would not reveal the exact numbers.

"I think what the stats show is there is a clear issue we can say since the change (in rules) in 2020," McKay added, "and the problem comes in the postseason."

Since the previous overtime rule was instituted for the regular season in 2012, the team that wins the coin toss has won the game half of the time (76 of 152 games). However, both teams have had at least one possession in 82% of the games (124 of 152).

Those numbers changed quite a bit in the postseason. Since 2010, when that rule was instituted for the playoffs, seven of the 12 overtime games have been won on an opening possession touchdown, and 10 of 12 have been won by the team that won the coin toss.

"That data was compelling to us and to the league," McKay said. "An amendment was added (to the original proposal by the Colts and Eagles) to not make a change in the regular season, but in the postseason, where our problem principally lies."

The Titans had recommended that both teams possess the ball in overtime unless the team receiving the kickoff scores a touchdown and a 2-point conversion. That would end the game. But the owners, perhaps believing the Tennessee suggestion was too gimmicky, went with the other proposal.

Under previous rules, the 10-minute overtime in the regular season only continued if the team getting the ball first failed to score or kicked a field goal. Should the side receiving the kickoff make a field goal, the team that first played defense would get a possession in which it can score a touchdown and win, or kick a field goal and play would continue — if time allowed.

Of course, in the postseason, when there are no ties, overtimes continue until someone has more points.

Earlier Tuesday, Carolina coach Matt Rhule voiced his support of a potential change — something that many owners agreed with, if only for the postseason.

"You get a shot, I get a shot," Rhule said, "and may the best team win."

Troy Vincent, who oversees NFL football operations, echoed Rhule's sentiment, saying that football fans have expressed the same opinion.

"The fan wants to see his quarterback touch the ball, and the data drove us to that," Vincent said.

The owners also approved an anti-tampering rule that prohibits a team seeking an assistant general manager from asking permission for an interview until after the draft. As Vincent explained, someone in personnel for one team who has been involved in draft preparation should not be available for hire by another club until the draft is over.

Once the draft has concluded — this year that is April 30 — the employing team must grant permission for such interviews.

BRIEFS

D'backs sign Marte to extension

News services

The Diamondbacks have decided to anchor their offensive future around Ketel Marte's ample talents.

The club announced on Tuesday that it had finalized a $76 million, five-year contract with Marte that begins in the 2023 season and includes a team option for the 2028 that could be worth up to $13 million.

The 28-year-old Marte has clearly been the D-backs' best player over the past few seasons. The only problem has been keeping him on the field. Marte batted .318 with 29 doubles and 14 homers last season despite being limited to 90 games because of hamstring injuries.

■ Giants 3B Evan Longoria was scheduled for surgery to repair a ligament in his right index finger. A timeline for his return isn't immediately clear because Longoria must keep the finger immobilized for at least 10 days after surgery before he is re-evaluated. Longoria, 36, was limited to 81 games last season for the 107-win NL West champions because of a sprained left shoulder when he collided with SS Brandon Crawford on July 5. Longoria batted .261 with 13 homers and 46 RBIs. ... RHP Corbin Burnes' Cy Young Award-winning performance last year has resulted in him getting the opening day assignment for the Brewers this season. Manager Craig Counsell said Burnes would start the Brewers' April 7 opener against the Cubs. Burnes, 27, has been one of baseball's top pitchers the last two seasons. Last season, Burnes went 11-5 with a 2.43 ERA and struck out 234 with just 34 walks in 167 innings. ... Still sporting a 0.00 ERA after three spring starts, Astros ace Justin Verlander won't start on opening day as the team plans around the early-season schedule. Returning from Tommy John surgery, Verlander, 39, hasn't pitched since the delayed opening day of the COVID-19-shortened 2020 season.

College basketball: Iowa All-American Keegan Murray has announced he will declare for the NBA draft. Murray tweeted on Tuesday that he would leave the Hawkeyes after a sophomore season in which he was the Big Ten scoring leader, a consensus All-American and unanimous pick to AP's All-Big Ten team. Murray's average of 23.5 points per game was best among players from Power Five schools.

High school basketball: UCLA-bound Kiki Rice scored 17 points, and the East beat the West 95-75 in the girls' McDonald's All-American Game at Wintrust Arena in Chicago.

NBA: Cavaliers F Evan Mobley will miss Wednesday's game against the Mavericks — and maybe more — with a sprained left ankle as the injury-plagued team fights for a playoff spot. Mobley got hurt in the first half of Monday's win over the Magic. Mobley is averaging 14.9 points and 8.3 rebounds in 67 starts and is a contender for Rookie of the Year honors.

NFL: A resolution to the NFL's investigation into QB Deshaun Watson's conduct could take some time, Commissioner Roger Goodell said. Watson, now with the Browns after a trade from the Texans, will not be indicted on criminal sexual misconduct charges brought by 22 women. He still faces 22 civil lawsuits. ... The Saints signed veteran QB Andy Dalton to back up returning starter Jameis Winston. ... The Ravens signed coach John Harbaugh to a three-year contract extension through 2025. The Ravens are 148-96 under Harbaugh, plus a Super Bowl victory at the end of the 2012 season. ... The Jaguars received formal approval to move forward with a three-year contract to play annually at Wembley Stadium through the 2024 season.

Soccer: Cristiano Ronaldo, the all-time top scorer in men's international soccer will get to play in his fifth World Cup after Portugal defeated North Macedonia 2-0 in the European qualifying playoffs on Tuesday.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: NCAA Tournament national semifinal at Minneapolis, vs. Stanford, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

UCONN
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

COVERAGE PRESENTED BY
R&D RISCASSI & DAVIS P.C.
Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years

UConn

from Page 1

UConn coach Geno Auriemma waxed a little nostalgic on a conference call Tuesday.

"The Target Center will always have a special place in our hearts in Connecticut," he said.

Auriemma was still processing Monday night's game with all its ups and downs. In the second quarter, reserve center Dorka Juhasz, playing in her first NCAA Tournament, fell hard on her left wrist and fractured it. She only played three minutes but she had already hit a shot and had two rebounds before leaving the game.

With UConn's post players in foul trouble, it appeared that Juhasz's absence would be a problem for the Huskies but they hung on for the win, managing to equal NC State in rebounding (39 each) and only allowing NC State to score four more points in the paint (44-40).

Juhasz did not board the bus from Storrs to the airport Tuesday with her teammates, but it was not clear what her status was.

Her absence could pose a problem against Stanford, which has 6-foot-4 sophomore center Cameron Brink, the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year. Brink, who can be prone to foul trouble, had six blocks to go with 10 points in the Cardinal's win over Texas in the regional final Sunday.

"Dorka was so excited she couldn't see straight in her first couple of games," Auriemma said. "She finally got her legs under her [Monday] and played a phenomenal 3 ½ minutes and made a huge impact. As fate would have it, she fractured her wrist.

"It could only happen to us three days before we play the longest, most athletic front line, tallest group of players that exist in the tournament, Stanford's amazing post players. What adjustments can we make? All we can do is play with what we have. We can tinker with some lineup situations as the game goes on."

One of the highs Monday for UConn was the emergence of Bueckers, looking like her old self in the late stages of the game.

Bueckers, who missed 19 games due to a left knee injury and subsequent surgery, had 23 points in the second half Monday, 15 in the overtime. She hit a jump shot with 2:09 left in regulation to give UConn a 61-59 lead before NC State's Elissa Cunane tied it up with 57 seconds left to send the game into the first overtime. Bueckers hit two jump shots and four free throws in the first OT then had two free throws with 6.2 seconds left to give the Huskies a 77-74 lead. Jakia Brown-Turner's 3-pointer with 0.8 seconds left tied the score again and sent the game into a second OT.

Bueckers hit a 3 to open the second overtime before senior Christyn Williams put the game away with a free throw to give the Huskies an 87-84 lead with 54 seconds left. Williams followed that with a drive to the hoop and another final basket with 5.2 seconds left for the final score.

Bueckers played 44 minutes.

"If you asked me a couple weeks ago if Paige would be able to play 40 minutes, I would have said no," Auriemma said. "She got better and better as the game went on."

Said Williams Monday night: "I was literally thinking, 'We have Paige Bueckers and they don't.' I mean, once she makes one, the rim is this big. She's just going to keep making them. So keep giving her the ball."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.



UConn's Aaliyah Edwards, left, Nika Mühl, center, and Christyn Williams, right, look out of their bus at fans during a send-off rally to the Final Four on Tuesday in Storrs. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

LATE MONDAY:
UCONN 91, NC STATE 87 (2OT)

UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Bueckers	45	10-15	6-7	6	1	1	27
Williams	48	9-22	1-2	5	0	2	21
Fudd	49	7-16	3-4	5	2	2	19
Edwards	39	4-8	2-4	6	2	5	10
Nelson-Ododa	38	3-6	0-3	7	4	4	6
Westbrook	16	2-6	0-0	1	1	1	4
Muhl	8	1-1	0-0	2	0	0	2
Juhasz	3	1-2	0-0	2	0	0	2
Ducharme	5	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0
TOTALS		**— 37-77**	**12-20**	**39**	**10**	**16**	**91**

Three-point goals: 37-77, 23.8(Fudd 2-5, Williams 2-8, Bueckers 1-3, Juhasz 0-1, Ducharme 0-1, Westbrook 0-3). FG pct.: 48.1. FT pct.: 60.0. Team rebounds: 4. Turnovers: 8(Bueckers 3, Edwards 2, Nelson-Ododa 2, Team). Blocks: 2(Bueckers, Fudd). Steals: 5(Edwards 2, Fudd, Westbrook, Muhl).

NC State	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Brown-Turner	48	6-14	6-6	8	5	1	20
Cunane	48	8-13	2-2	9	2	2	18
Crutchfield	42	4-10	2-3	3	1	3	12
Jones	34	6-8	0-0	9	2	4	12
Perez	42	1-8	0-0	4	10	2	3
Boyd	16	4-7	6-8	2	0	1	14
Johnson	18	3-6	0-0	0	0	1	8
Hobby	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	2	0
TOTALS		**— 32-66**	**16-19**	**39**	**20**	**16**	**87**

Three-point goals: 7-23, 30.4(Johnson 2-3, Crutchfield 2-4, Brown-Turner 2-7, Perez 1-5, Jones 0-1, Boyd 0-1, Cunane 0-2). FG pct.: 48.5. FT pct.: 84.2. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 14 (Cunane 5, Jones 3, Brown-Turner, Crutchfield, Perez, Boyd, Hobby, Team). Blocks: 7(Jones 3, Brown-Turner 2, Cunane, Crutchfield). Steals: 4 (Brown-Turner, Jones, Perez, Johnson).

UConn	**16**	**18**	**10**	**17**	**16**	**14**	**— 91**
NC State	**14**	**14**	**15**	**18**	**16**	**10**	**— 87**

Officials: Cruse, Luna, Spurlock. Att.: 10,119at Total Mortgage Arena, Bridgeport.

Stanford

from Page 1

Carolina on Dec. 21.

Sophomore center Cameron Brink leads a balanced scoring effort, averaging 13.4 points and 8.1 rebounds with 89 blocks, but she also gets into foul trouble a lot. Jones averages 12.9 points and 7.8 rebounds and is an 82% free throw shooter, while Hull averages 12.7 points.

"They have a great team," VanDerveer said of UConn. "But they have to guard us. Our team has great weapons, Cam, Haley. Lexi's playing extremely well. [Guard] Anna Wilson. We have a deep bench. Maybe our advantage might be we can go deeper and we can be more aggressive."

VanDerveer said she watched UConn's double overtime win over NC State on Monday night.

"I thought they played really well last night," she said. "Obviously, the game could have gone either way. Free throws down the stretch maybe were the difference. It's very sad they had the injuries they have and having the injury last night, too, you never want to see a player go down. They're playing very well, and we'll have to play very well to beat them."

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Engstler's grit helps Louisville top Michigan, reach the Final Four

WICHITA, Kan. — Emily Engstler's shot wouldn't drop, yet her dominant performance helped Louisville reach the women's Final Four.

The versatile All-ACC forward made just 1 of 9 field goals against Michigan in the Wichita Region final on Monday night. She missed all five of her 3-point tries and was held to five points. But she also had 16 rebounds, six steals and four assists and played a key role in helping the top-seeded Cardinals defeat No. 3 seed Michigan 62-50 in the Elite Eight.

Aside from the shooting, it was a typical effort for the 6-foot-1 senior. She has averaged 13.5 points, 11.0 rebounds and 4.8 steals per game during the NCAA Tournament while helping Louisville limit opponents to 56 points per game.

"She has always had that type of impact on the game," Louisville coach Jeff Walz said. "It doesn't matter how she shoots the basketball."

— Associated Press

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Freshman Diggins enters NCAA transfer portal

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

UConn men's basketball guard Rahsool Diggins, who didn't see much playing time this past season, has entered the NCAA transfer portal.

The freshman will have three years of eligibility as an undergraduate student.

Diggins, a 6-foot-2 guard from Philadelphia, originally committed to the Huskies in July 2020. According to 247sports.com, he was ranked No. 59 overall in the Class of 2021. In his senior year of high school, Diggins won the MaxPreps Pennsylvania High School Player of the Year.

He is a combo guard with the ability to distribute the ball and break down the defense through scoring or playmaking.

In the 2021-22 season, he played nine games, averaging 5.1 minutes and 0.8 points.

"It was a frustrating year for Rahsool," UConn coach Dan Hurley said. "And you just wish him well. He's a really good player and a quality guy. When you're a young player and you don't get the opportunity to get in there and you're as competitive as he is, basketball's a big part of his life and he feels there is a better place for him."

R.J. Cole played most of the minutes at point guard this past season, with Jalen Gaffney as backup, limiting Diggins, who missed time in the summer and fall with a knee injury, to minutes at the end of one-sided games.

UCONN BASEBALL

Leary, Vetrano guide Boston College past Huskies, 5-3

Staff report

STORRS – Cameron Leary and Joe Vetrano each hit home runs to lead the Boston College baseball team to a 5-3 win over UConn on Tuesday at Elliot Ballpark.

Cole Chudoba started and took the loss for the Huskies (17-6), pitching 4 ⅔ innings and allowing three runs on eight hits. Four Eagles pitches combined to hold the Huskies to just two earned runs on seven hits. Henry Leake came on in the fifth and pitched three innings for the win.

Casey Dana had two hits for UConn and Ben Huber had a two-run home run. The Huskies are at Kent State in Ohio for a three-game series starting on Friday.

Hurley

from Page 1

ans this week. Freshman Rahsool Diggins, who played very little, has entered the transfer portal. None of those departures are surprising, but Hurley must replenish his roster, especially at guard, and will look to the transfer portal and spring signing period.

"This is a very important late signing period for us," Hurley said. "We have a very specific plan how we want to attack it, keeping our culture intact. We've got some building blocks here we can build around, and some young players that believe they're going to be able to fight their way on the court."

Hurley has looked back over the season, in which UConn finished 23-10, losing to Villanova, a Final Four team, by three in the Big East semifinals before the loss to New Mexico State. The Huskies earned a No. 5 seed, a better position than in 2021 when they got back to the tournament for the first time in five years. The first-round exit in Hurley's fourth season represented more of a setback.

"I came here to win big," he said. "I came here to win Big East championships, to go to the Final Four and go for national championships. If I was content with just getting to the NCAA Tournament and winning a game and getting sent home, I would have stayed where I was [at Rhode Island]. But we all came here to do big things. The opportunities aren't created for players and coaches, big ones that everyone wants, unless you do more than we did this year."

Hurley blamed UConn's demise on its defensive efficiency, which is the area he emphasizes, and bench strength that didn't materialize as anticipated. New Mexico State's Teddy Allen burned UConn for 37 points, as defenders continued to foul him in the act of taking jump shots and sending him to the line.

By the end of the season, as Hurley did not have the confidence to play freshmen and other players' roles diminished, the starters were racking up too many minutes, especially Adama Sanogo.

"We've got to create a more competitive environment with the roster, because I did not enjoy feeling like we were trending toward a 6 ½ man roster toward the end of the year," Hurley said. "I want to get back to the way my teams have always played, where its like nine guys getting in."

Hurley also wants to return to a "four-around-one" style that worked for him at Rhode Island. At UConn, where he played Isaiah Whaley with Sanogo, it was more three-around-two. In order to do that, he will be looking to remake the roster with more skilled offensive players, including a point guard who can also score, in the transfer portal and the late-signing recruits.

"At this level, you can get skill and size," Hurley said. "The situation we've been in, Isaiah and Adama have been two of our best players, and the drop off to our sixth player is pretty significant, and it's about putting your best players on the court."

If there are no more departures, Hurley expects Corey Floyd Jr. and Alex Karaban, who are freshman who enrolled early and red-shirted, to "fight their way onto the court" next season, and joined by incoming freshman Donavan Clingan from Bristol Central. He expects Sanogo, as a junior, to be a potential All-American, Jordan Hawkins, as a sophomore, to become a centerpiece offensive player and Andre Jackson, who will be a junior, to take another big leap and become a captain and a better offensive player. "I'm excited about Andre's leadership," Hurley said.

Jalen Gaffney and Akok Akok, among the older players with dwindling minutes, "are both at a crossroads here," Hurley said, "with how the season went for them and what they want to do about it. Guys have come back from their situation and become starters, play significant roles for their teams. Some guys have not."

Hurley doesn't anticipate any changes in his coaching staff. He has taken the program from a low point, two consecutive losing seasons, to a tournament team. The Huskies' victory over Villanova in Hartford and a narrow loss in New York is evidence, to him that they are not far away from the top.

"That first weekend [after the loss], you're just shot," he said. "I felt like death. That week, as your meeting with the players, you're evaluating everything, your staff, your players, everything you did on offense, everything you did on defense, who you played, everything runs through your mind when you didn't get what you wanted. When you didn't achieve what you wanted to achieve, you beat yourself up first, then you start fixing it and making the proper adjustments."

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Coach Dan Hurley will spend a long spring and summer trying to get his UConn roster reshaped for another run to the NCAA Tournament. **FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP**



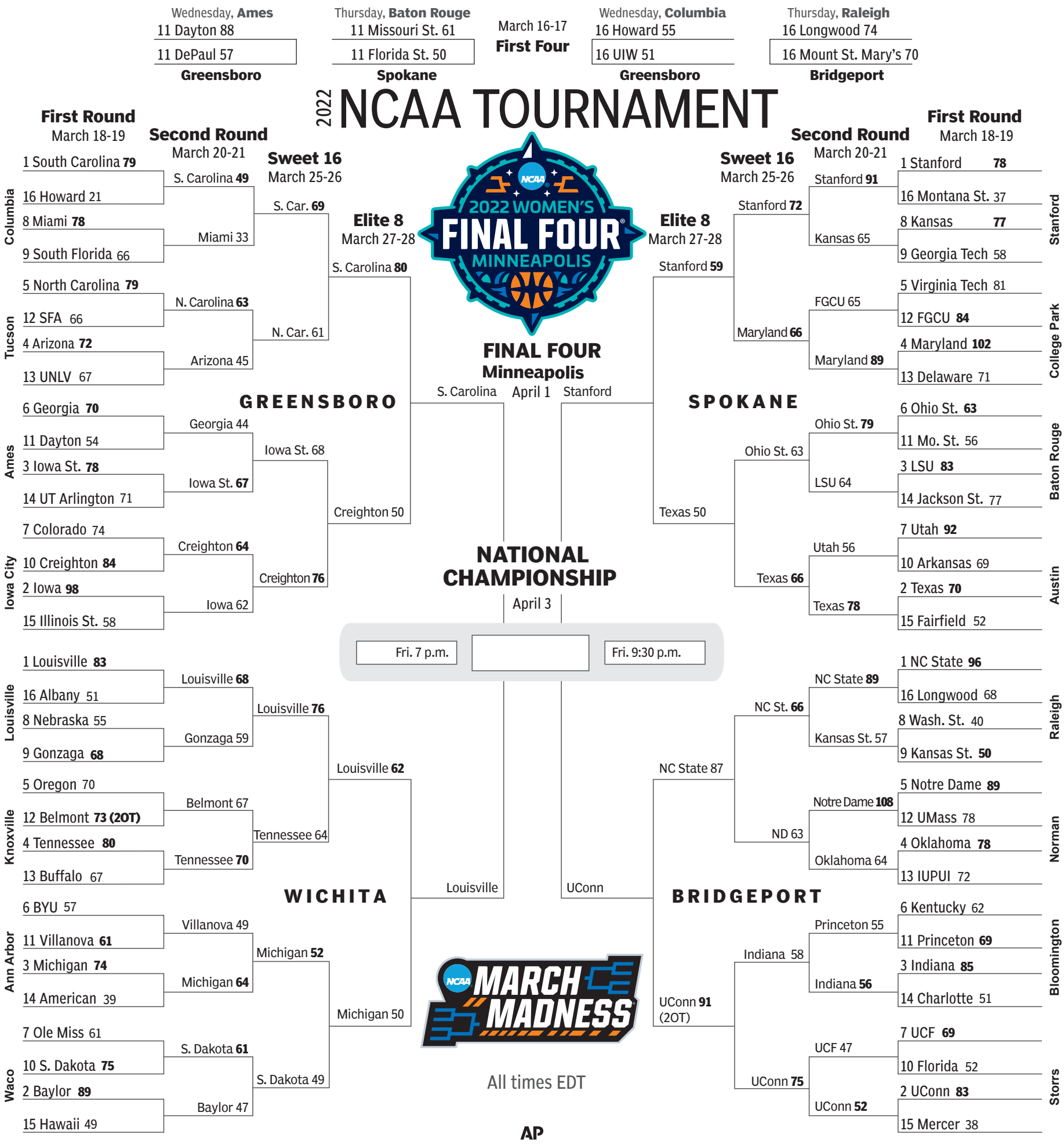
Safety Tip of the Day

Concerned about the health and safety of your family members? You might want to stay away from both conventional dryer sheets and liquid fabric softeners. Both types of products contain chemicals known to be toxic to people after sustained exposure.

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SPORTS



KNICKS COMMENTARY

New York must stop pretending the Randle problem doesn't exist

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

It's hard to remember a player with such extreme love and hatred for his job as Julius Randle.

He loves it enough to play through injuries, to play through frustration, to lead the league in minutes last season after turning his enormous 6-foot-8 body into a conditioned machine. As Randle said Sunday, following just his second missed game due to injury over three seasons with the Knicks, "I hate taking time off."

It's a refreshing stance in today's NBA world, where too many stars treat the regular season like a lazy Sunday. And yet it's hard to understand why Randle wants so badly to be on the basketball court, especially this season at Madison Square Garden, where he often looks miserable.

The latest example was Monday night's victory over the Bulls, which was soured by Randle's reactions before and after the final buzzer, most notably his beeline to the locker room while his teammates celebrated.

It's impossible to know what's occurring in Randle's mind during these moments, but the optics suggest some self-centered beef or insecurity. Coach Tom Thibodeau avoids the topic when quizzed by the media, often steering the conversation to Randle's rebounding or some teamwide issue.

It could be, of course, the boos from the home crowd or the adulation and chants for Randle's replacement, Obi Toppin. Randle's thumbs-down gesture in January demonstrated he's acutely aware of the MSG crowd.

There's more evidence suggesting he's affected by the environment.

The difference isn't earth-shattering, but Randle is shooting worse at home than on the road (39.7% to 42.4%), shooting worse from beyond the arc (28.9% to 32.4%), shooting worse from the foul line (74.5% to 77%), scoring less (19.1 points to 20.1 points) and committing more turnovers (3.5 to 3.3). The Knicks also own a better record on the road.

It could also be the frustration of a diminishing role, with RJ Barrett's ascension taking away some of Randle's shine and opportunities. Randle views himself as a star worthy of the ball, exhibiting the confidence that is great for a star with the requisite skills but counterproductive if it's overinflated.

Skeptics around the league don't believe Randle can succeed as a second, third or fourth option, which would have to be his status on a title contender. Even today, without another All-Star on the roster, Randle's grip on the featured role is slipping away because of Barrett, who is commanding the ball and notice of his teammates while building toward a max extension in the offseason.



Knicks forward Julius Randle plays in the first half against the Grizzlies on March 11 in Memphis, Tennessee. **BRANDON DILL / AP**

"Right now, he's the high guy," center Mitchell Robinson said of the 21-year-old Barrett. "You got to feed him. We're winning, he's eating, everybody is eating."

This season fell on its face when Barrett missed four games with an ankle sprain just before the All-Star break, when the Knicks suffered epic late-game collapses against the Trail Blazers, Thunder and Nets. Thibodeau's job felt in jeopardy, but then Barrett returned after the break, the young players (specifically Immanuel Quickley and Toppin) surged, and the Knicks are enjoying their best stretch of the season.

"We just found our rhythm," Barrett said. "Found it late but found it nonetheless."

Reminded that another factor was him returning from injury, Barrett said, "Yeah, that happened as well."

It's perpetuating one of the divisive narratives that Thibodeau lamented last week, but it's also silly to ignore the months of mood swings and unpredictability from Randle. It's not sustainable. Something has to give.

The roster construction is flawed and the Knicks removed two of Randle's good friends — Reggie Bullock and Elfrid Payton — from last season's squad. But these are poor excuses for Randle's season and ugly moments.

Even if he can never again shoot 3-pointers as efficiently as his magical 2020-21 season, there's a place for Randle with an attitude adjustment and greater self-awareness.

He's been enabled along the way this season, whether it's owner James Dolan eating a fine or Thibodeau pretending the destructive behavior doesn't exist.

Somebody with the Knicks needs to give Randle a reality check.

NETS

Drummond clarifies comments: 'Would I love to be here? Absolutely'

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Andre Drummond has cleared the air about his future in Brooklyn after a comment he made last week was misinterpreted on social media.

"Would I love to be here? Absolutely. Can I control that right now? No," Drummond said after Nets shootaround at the HSS Training Facility in Industry City on Tuesday. "I can only control what's happening right now. So we know that. So don't misuse my words. That's not fair to me and that's not right, because I shouldn't have to defend myself publicly, again, after I said the right thing. That's not right."

The veteran center's misinterpreted comment, made last Wednesday in Memphis, was in response to a question asked about Nic Claxton, who thought he was on the trading block once Drummond was traded to the Nets.

"And if we're all being honest, I'm only here til the rest of the season," Drummond said then, which went viral.

But that was only a fraction of his full comments from last Wednesday:

"I think that we need [Claxton]. We need him. I think he's very, very beneficial for this team," Drummond, the Connecticut native and former UConn star, said. "He's young still. A guy that can come in and help, can start, come off the bench. He can do a little bit of everything. With a guy like that that's so versatile, why would you trade somebody like that?

"And again, he's a young big, too. And if we're all being honest, I'm only here til the rest of the season, so who knows what's gonna happen in the offseason? So they need a guy like that."

NHL ROUNDUP

Kreider scores 45th goal as Rangers hold off Penguins

Associated Press

Frank Vatrano and Braden Schneider scored less than five minutes apart in the second period, Chris Kreider added his 45th goal in the third and the visiting New York Rangers moved into second place in the Metropolitan Division with a 3-2 win over the Penguins on Tuesday night in Pittsburgh.

Igor Shesterskin made 22 saves, including a stop on Penguins forward Jake Guentzel in the final seconds to help New York beat Pittsburgh for the second time in five days.

The Penguins, coming off an 11-goal outburst in a romp over Detroit on Sunday, needed nearly two full periods to muster that many shots against New York as the Rangers won for the second time in three meetings.

Sidney Crosby scored his 25th goal and Brian Boyle got his ninth for the Penguins. Tristan Jarry stopped 23 shots but fell to 6-2 in his last eight starts, with both losses coming to New York.

Maple Leafs 6, Bruins 4: At Boston, Auston Matthews scored his league-leading 49th goal and had an assist as the Toronto Maple Leafs ended Boston's four-game winning streak.

Matthews' goal late in the second period was the fourth of five straight scored by the Maple Leafs, who held a 6-1 lead and flustered the Bruins into a string of retaliatory hits and penalties.

Colin Blackwell scored his first goal since joining Toronto in a trade at the deadline. Morgan Rielly, Alexander Kerfoot and Mitchell Marner each had a goal and an assist.

John Tavares added two assists and Erik Kallgren had 23 saves after entering in the first period, replacing Petr Mrazek, who left with an undisclosed injury. The Leafs also lost a pair of defensemen to injuries, but had more than enough offense before the Bruins cut the margin.

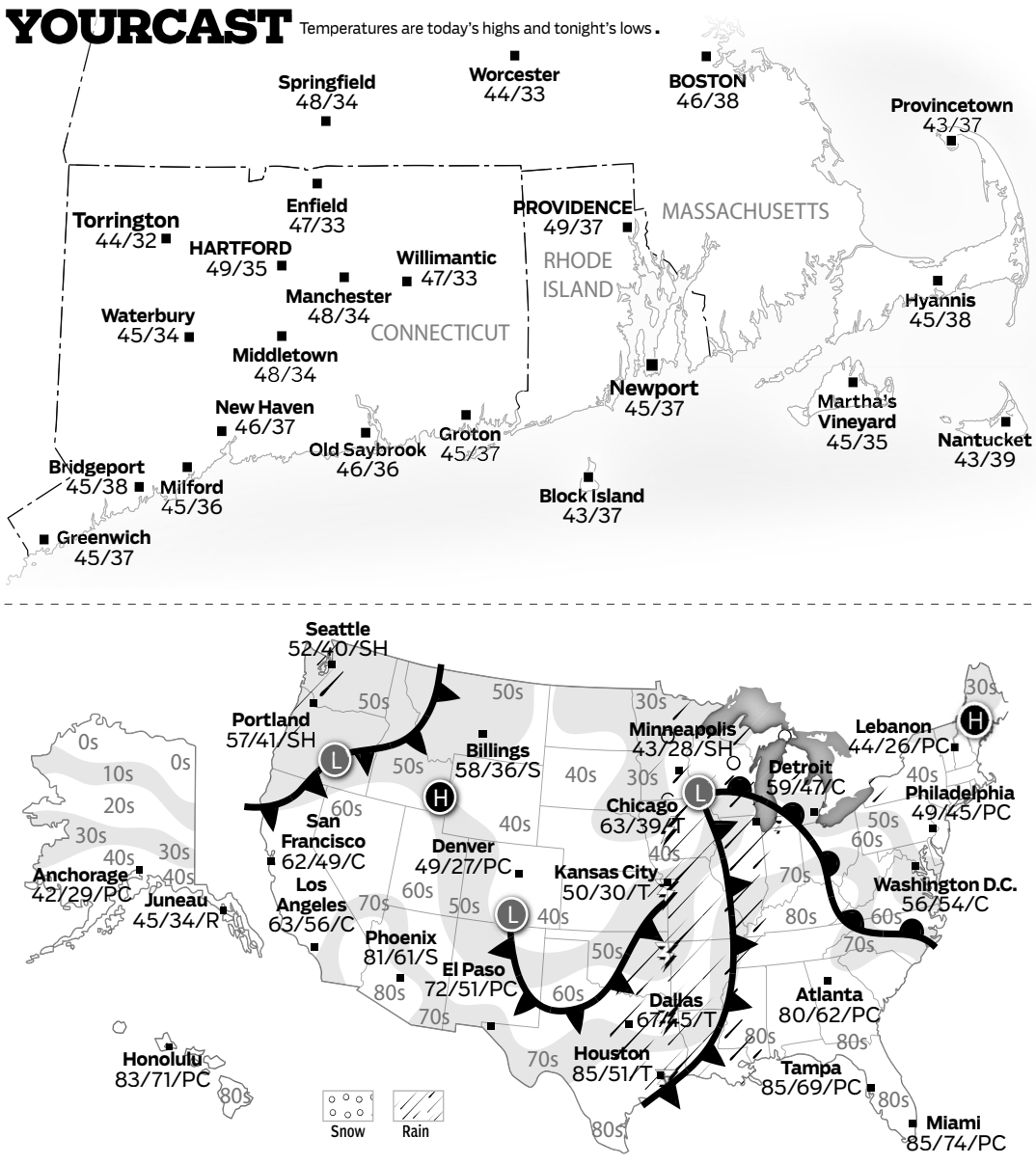
WEATHER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Thickening cloudiness, more seasonable. West wind around 5 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and drizzle developing, breezy and milder.	Chance for a few morning showers, some afternoon sunshine, breezy and mild.	Partly to mostly sunny and breezy.	Variable cloudiness and seasonable.
HIGH 49° LOW 35°	HIGH 62° LOW 50°	HIGH 58° LOW 34°	HIGH 54° LOW 33°	HIGH 56° LOW 36°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

High pressure over Maine will bring some morning sunshine on Wednesday, then a warm front to the southwest will cause thickening cloudiness. Temperatures will be more comfortable with highs mainly in the 40s statewide, although a few 50-degree readings can't be ruled out. Mostly cloudy skies and seasonable temperatures overnight. Scattered showers and drizzle are likely Thursday and Thursday night. A washout is not expected. A couple showers could linger into Friday morning. Temperatures will be mild on Thursday and Friday.

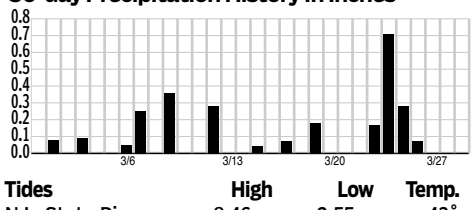
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.11
Month to date	2.63	3.57
Total this year	8.94	9.98
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.1
Total this year	31.5	50.4

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

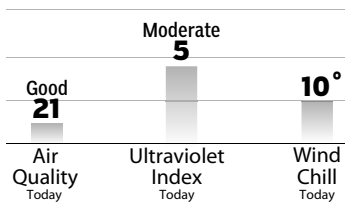
30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	8:46 a.m.	2:55 a.m.	43°
	9:08 p.m.	3:18 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	9:57 a.m.	3:48 a.m.	43°
	10:19 p.m.	4:11 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	12:15 a.m.	7:34 a.m.	
	12:40 p.m.	7:57 p.m.	
Madison	10:21 a.m.	4:06 a.m.	42°
	10:44 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	
New Haven	10:41 a.m.	4:30 a.m.	41°
	11:04 p.m.	4:54 p.m.	
Stamford	10:45 a.m.	4:44 a.m.	41°
	11:08 p.m.	5:08 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 8.62 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:38 a.m.	6:36 a.m.
Sunset	7:13 p.m.	7:14 p.m.
Moonrise	6:14 a.m.	6:38 a.m.
Moonset	5:36 p.m.	6:45 p.m.

Moon Phase

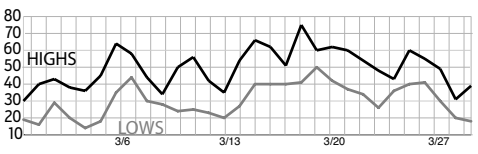
New	First	Full	Last
Apr 1	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	VCloudy	VCloudy	VCloudy
Wind	NW/W, 10-15	NW/W, 10-15	NW/W, 15
Seas	1 ft.	1-2 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Tuesday	39 at 3:14 p.m	18 at 4:55 a.m
Normal for date	52	32
Record for date	86 in 1945	4 in 1923
A year ago	52	33
Range this year	76	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - March 29	4693	5137	4789

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.08 at 10 a.m.	29.97 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	7° at 9 a.m.	1° at 2 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND				Baltimore	49	48	C	Nashville	85	51	PC	San Juan	86	74	PC
Bangor	43	25	S	Bismarck	41	21	PC	New Orleans	85	60	T	Tucson	75	51	S
Burlington	41	31	PC	Boise	63	34	PC	New York	44	42	PC	**WORLD**			
Caribou	38	19	PC	Buffalo	46	45	C	Okla. City	61	36	PC				
Concord	45	25	PC	Charleston	80	62	C	Omaha	44	28	C	Amsterdam	48	28	PC
Montpelier	39	26	PC	Cincinnati	76	51	PC	Orlando	88	66	PC	Athens	66	54	C
Mt. Wash.	22	20	PC	Cleveland	61	55	PC	Pittsburgh	63	56	PC	Bangkok	99	82	T
Portland	46	33	S	Indianapolis	75	43	C	Raleigh	64	60	C	Barbados	83	72	PC
Woods Hole	45	36	S	Jacksonville	85	62	PC	St. Louis	73	39	T	Beijing	54	37	C
NATION				Las Vegas	80	59	S	Salt Lake City	62	42	PC	Beirut	69	54	PC
Albany	44	35	PC	Miami Beach	80	75	PC	San Antonio	87	51	PC	Berlin	46	32	C
Albuquerque	63	40	C	Milwaukee	54	37	R	San Diego	65	61	C	Bermuda	68	59	PC
Atlantic City	45	43	PC												

Budapest	67	51	PC	Kingston	84	75	SH	Stockholm	39	20	PC
Buenos Aires	68	46	PC	Lisbon	61	54	PC	Sydney	72	63	SH
Cairo	81	59	S	London	50	36	SH	Tel Aviv	68	47	PC
Cancun	86	74	PC	Madrid	57	39	R	Tokyo	64	52	C
Dubai	81	68	S	Mexico City	92	67	S	Toronto	41	40	I
Dublin	46	28	SH	Milan	59	46	R	Vancouver	52	41	SH
Edinburgh	45	28	I	Montreal	36	30	PC	Warsaw	48	36	SH
Helsinki	34	12	C	Moscow	36	21	SN				
Hong Kong	75	68	SH	Nassau	82	66	S				
Istanbul	63	46	PC	New Delhi	104	68	PC				
Jerusalem	66	54	PC	Paris	52	37	SH				
Johannesburg	77	54	PC	Prague	50	37	R				
				Rio de Janeiro	91	72	R				
				Rome	59	52	T				
				Seoul	59	46	C				
				Singapore	95	73	T				

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

GIANTS

Daboll 'looking to add' tackle

By Patrick Leonard
New York Daily News

PALM BEACH, Fla. — The Giants still need another starting tackle, a right tackle, on their reworked offensive line. Everyone knows it. And first-year head coach Brian Daboll didn't run from that at Tuesday morning's NFC coaches breakfast at The Breakers.

"We'll be looking to add," Daboll said of the tackle position. "Whenever that may be. That's an important spot."

This confirms that offensive tackles are firmly in play for the Giants' first-round NFL Draft picks at Nos. 5 and 7 overall on April 28. The team doesn't have salary cap space to make a major splash in free agency, and they are prioritizing a long-term build through drafts.

Alabama's Evan Neal, N.C. State's Ikem Ekwonu and Mississippi State's Charles Cross so far are the standouts, according to league sources. And the Daily News previously has reported the Giants are very high on Cross.

GM Joe Schoen said Monday that he intends to draft the best player available, not purely based on need. He left the door open to trading back from one of those picks, too.

"We have enough needs on the roster that I think you can go take the best player available," Schoen said. "That's how we're gonna set [the board]. We're gonna set it best football player 1-to-7 or 1-to-13 [in the event of a trade back], who's the best football player. You can make some mistakes sometimes if you draft by need."

The Giants' offense has been the team's Achilles heel, and Daboll was hired because of his offensive success in Buffalo. So it could be hard not to prioritize offense with that first pick.

"That's a fair question," Daboll said.

But Daboll echoed Schoen's philosophy of how to approach the top of the board and said he's been scouring tape of defensive prospects, too, including edge rushers.

"It's always cool to look at a defensive player and evaluate him as OK, I'm not really worried about, if we play against this guy that gets drafted, we're gonna go at his ass," Daboll said. "Or, this guy's pretty tough. He's a good player. How he sets the edge.

"In terms of whether I'd rather draft an offensive guy or defensive guy," he added, "I'd rather draft the best player wherever that fits. We have a lot of needs. So we're gonna pick the best guy we can pick at both of those spots or either of those spots or however it works out."

Meanwhile, at quarterback, Daboll encouragingly said that Daniel Jones (neck) "should be ready to go" and healthy when the Giants hit the field later this month for a pre-draft minicamp.

The Giants' players can return to the building starting Monday for offseason workouts because Daboll is a first-time head coach. Teams with returning head coaches don't bring players back until April 18.

Both Schoen and Daboll referred to Tyrod Taylor as the "backup," confirming that Jones remains the starter. Daboll couched his answer on Taylor a bit by saying: "Yeah, he came in as the backup... Right now we've got [the depth chart] set the way we want it set right now."

But that came off more like Daboll encouraging a competitive internal environment than a threat to Jones' day one starter status, which is not in doubt.

"The most important thing for me on Monday is a fresh start for everybody," Daboll said.

Schoen's plan was to return to the pro day NFL Draft circuit and gear up for top 30 visits bringing prospects to New Jersey.

Daboll has not traveled to pro days. Instead, he has watched film of draft prospects back at the team's facility and continued preparations for meeting his team in person on Monday.

Travelers

from Page 1

"Bubba has shown, time and again, how involved he wants to be when it comes to causes that are important to the Travelers Championship and to our community," said Andy Bessette, executive vice president and chief administrative officer at Travelers. "We can't thank Bubba and his family enough for their personal contributions and support of the tournament's charitable efforts. We've gotten to know the Watsons really well over the years, and look forward to welcoming them back to Connecticut this summer."

Watson joins top-ranked PGA Tour players Scottie Scheffler, Patrick Cantlay, Justin Thomas, Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson and Xander Schauffele in the 2022 field. The tournament will take place June 20-26 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.

For tournament updates, visit TravelersChampionship.com.

NFL NOTES

Patriots signing former Giant Peppers to 1-year deal

The Patriots reached terms with former Giants safety Jabrill Peppers on a 1-year contract Tuesday, a source confirmed to the Boston Herald.

Peppers can earn up to $5 million this season.

Peppers was limited to six game appearances last year due to a torn ACL, but will reportedly be ready for training camp. He posted 29 tackles, one pass breakup and a sack last season. The 26-year-old projects as a backup safety and potential returner in New England.

Over three years in New York, Peppers primarily played in the box and covered the slot. He was also named a team captain and is a reputed favorite of former Giants head coach and current Pats assistant Joe Judge. Prior to playing in New York, Peppers started his career as a free safety in Cleveland.

The Browns, who took him in the first round of the 2017 draft, traded Peppers after two seasons. He started all 29 games for Cleveland, which won just seven total games in those years. Peppers ranked among the Browns' leading tacklers, but fumbled seven times as a returner and only nabbed two interceptions.

The Michigan product joins Devin McCourty, Adrian Phillips, Kyle Dugger, Myles Bryant, Joshuah Bledsoe and core special teamer Cody Davis at safety.

ESPN first reported the Patriots and Peppers agreed to terms.

— Andrew Callahan, Boston Herald

Jets on hunt for a WR

Joe Douglas is still ready to pounce if the opportunity to add another receiver for Zach Wilson presents itself.

The Jets GM attempted to pry All-Pro Tyreek Hill from Kansas City, coming inches short of securing the deal to bolster the weaponry around Wilson.

Their divisional rivals in Miami snatched Hill away. That isn't going to stop Douglas from trying.

"We have the opportunity to keep adding to it," Douglas said at the NFL owners' meetings on Tuesday morning. "If the opportunity is right, the price is right, we're going to strike,"

Hill isn't the only proven receiver the Jets were interested in.

The Jets expressed interest in the Falcons' Calvin Ridley, but Ridley was suspended for an entire year because he was caught gambling. They discussed former Cowboy Amari Cooper and viewed him as a good player. But Cooper was eventually traded to the Browns. They would have pursued the Chargers' Mike Williams, but the Chargers franchised tagged Williams then signed him to an extension.

— DJ Bien-Aime II, New York Daily News

GOLF MASTERS

Woods arrives at Augusta National as Masters talk mounts

Associated Press

Tiger Woods flew to Augusta National on Tuesday, sparking even greater speculation the Masters next week could be his first time competing against the best since a car crash 14 months ago severely injured his right leg.

Various plane-tracking websites showed a Gulfstream registered to Woods leaving South Florida at about 9 a.m., and the twitter handle "Eureka Earth" showed the private jet on the runway at Augusta's regional airport.

SI.com's "Morning Read" cited a source as saying Woods was at Augusta National with 12-year-old son Charlie. Woods' agent at Excel Sports did not immediately respond to a voicemail from Associated Press seeking comment.

Woods has not said anything publicly or even walked in a way that suggested he would be ready to play his first major — and first PGA Tour event — since the Masters in November 2020.

Speculation began to pick up when Phil Mickelson was removed from the list of players who plan to compete in the Masters, which starts April 7. Woods was still on the active invited players list, and when asked a week ago for guidance on a decision, his agent said it was too early.

Unlike regular tournaments, players don't have a commitment deadline. Woods is a five-time Masters champion who can play every year. It's up to him to tell Augusta National whether he will play, and that can happen all the way up until the start of the tournament.

Woods was seen playing at The Medalist near his home in Jupiter Island, Florida, over the weekend. He presumably was at Augusta National to see how his legs could hold up on one of the toughest walks in golf. The course has elevations on nearly every hole.

He played in December in the PNC Championship with his son — they finished runner-up — in a 36-hole tournament in Florida where Woods was able to ride in a cart and the format was a scramble.

"But to be able to be out here and play, call it six rounds of golf, a practice round, pro-am, four competitive days, it's the cumulative effect of all that. I'm not able to do that yet," Woods said six weeks ago at Riviera.